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# The Kentucky Warbler

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No. 3



*COMMON YELLOWTHROAT*

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## THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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The Common Yellowthroat on the cover page is a reproduction of a painting by our staff artist, Ray Harm.

NOTES ON SPRING MIGRATION ON RECLAIMED  
SURFACE MINED LAND IN BREATHITT COUNTY  
(EASTERN KY.)

PIERRE N. ALLAIRE

"Eastern Kentucky has been ignored to a considerable degree by zoologists and knowledge regarding its fauna is limited" (Barbour, *Ky. Warbler*, 37:31-39, 1951). I find Dr. Barbour's comment 23 years later to be remarkably appropriate, particularly concerning the avifauna of this area. Since arriving in Kentucky two years ago, I have found it frustrating at times trying to determine if the species I was observing were usual or unusual inhabitants of Breathitt County. Of course Mengel's publication (*The Birds of Kentucky*, 1965) and Monroe's summary (*Ky. Warbler*, 45:47-56, 1969) are helpful, although there is still not enough data available on Breathitt and the adjacent counties to inform anyone adequately of the status of many species. There are relatively few sightings and studies in print from this area as compared to other parts of the state. I have been able to find only one published article concerning Breathitt County (Barbour, *Ky. Warbler*, 32:3-11, 1956).

The purpose of this paper is to report on previously unrecorded avian species (spring migrants and winter resident species) in Breathitt County primarily as a result of the habitat created by surface mined lands. It is also my intention to add meaningful data to a part of the state which I feel has been seriously neglected by ornithologists.

In a recent article (Allaire, *Ky. Warbler*, 50:20, 1973), I reported that new surface mining techniques were drastically changing the habitat in Eastern Kentucky. The mountain top removal or "hollow fills" as some mine operators prefer to call it, results in the disturbance of a tremendous amount of earth, as compared to other types of mining, such as the auger or deep mining method. The process is relatively simple. The first 25-30 meters (75-100 feet) of the top of the mountain is removed and the coal extracted. The flattened mountain is reclaimed by sowing a variety of herbaceous plants. The majority of the land is then utilized for grazing, a secondary land use, as is shown in Figures I and II. One cannot imagine the scope of this type of operation. At the present rate of coal removal, there should be at least 200 hectares (500 acres) more of flat, reclaimed land by the winter of 1975 in Breathitt County.

Late in the fall of 1973 I became aware of these large areas of flat land and suspected that "atypical" species for the Cumberland Plateau region would be temporarily stopping during migration. It was also my assumption that this area would attract new breeding and wintering species. To see if my hypothesis were correct, I surveyed a specific tract of land up the south fork of Quicksand Creek about 25 kilometers (15 miles) east of Jackson from March 16 to May 7, 1974. Every trip was conducted at about the same time of day (9-11 a.m.) and roughly over the same route. Binoculars (8 x 35), spotting scope (20-60 zoom) and identification guides were carried in the field for a total of fourteen hours of observation. A list

of all the species seen and/or heard, plus their total numbers was tabulated at the end of each survey and compiled at the termination of the study (Table I). The species recorded in Table I was based on what I consider to be *habitat related species*, i.e. the presence of these species in Eastern Kentucky would not exist were it not for this type of habitat. It should be noted that the study tract was surrounded by eastern deciduous forest typical of the Cumberland Plateau (See Barbour, 1956, for description of the vegetation); however, the species associated with this habitat do not contribute to the theme of the paper.

The results in Table I reveal new data on the avian population in Breathitt County. The following is an analysis and discussion of this data.

1. Due to a lack of observation in Breathitt County other than that of Barbour (1956) and Whitt (per. comm.), a majority of the species in Table I represent a first published record for this county. I am sure some have been here for a number of years but have gone undetected and, therefore, unrecorded.

2. A species of particular interest is the Water Pipit. It is considered a rare to uncommon species for this area, but I regard it as probably more numerous than the data indicates. At least three times prior to the May 4 sighting, pipit-like calls were heard, but the individuals never seen. This species may warrant a change in status to common migrant if in the future it can be ascertained that it is present on a regular basis and in fairly large numbers.

3. Horned Larks were abundant early in the study and many of them probably winter residents. With such large numbers of the species in eastern Kentucky one can speculate that the Lapland Longspurs (*Calcarius lapponicus*) and Snow Buntings (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) could turn up on the Cumberland Plateau in the next very few years. Both are frequently found together in winter flocks with Horned Larks. A recent note by Palmer-Ball (*Ky. Warbler*, 50:30, 1974) confirms that all three species do occur together in the state.

4. A large flock of swallows containing four different species, two of which are not common to this area (Tree and Bank swallows), were recorded on May 7 at one of the shallow farm ponds. Thirty or more individuals constantly flew over and around the pond capturing insects and drinking water. Nowhere in the literature have I been able to find all four species occurring simultaneously in this part of the state.

5. Fifty or more Eastern Meadowlarks were recorded on March 16. They comprised an entire flock which lit on a small, weedy terrace just below the edge of the mountain top. Never have I observed such a huge concentration of Eastern Meadowlarks in such a small area. Mengle (1965) mentions similar concentrations in western Kentucky during the winter but does not attribute any particular reason for the flocking behavior. One can only postulate that there is a definite selective advantage for flocking during the harsher winter months while searching for food. The chances of

locating an adequate food supply is greatly enhanced when more than one bird is involved, especially in a relatively homogeneous habitat such as an open, short grass field.

6. Data concerning members belonging to the Order Charadriiformes (Sub-order Charadrii) is noteworthy for eastern Kentucky, particularly when up to six different species are recorded on the same day from the same area. No information containing records from Breathitt County is available save for the Spotted Sandpiper (Barbour, 1956). Of interest within this group is the American Golden Plover and Baird's Sandpiper, both of which are considered very rare in eastern Kentucky by Mengle (1965) and Monroe (1969). Perhaps a change in status may be warranted in the future for these two species and other charadriiforms.

7. A Great Blue Heron and a variety of waterfowl, although neither were common at all, did frequent a few of the small farm ponds. With no large impoundments nearby these ponds provided resting points and food sources along their migratory route.

8. Alsop (*Ky. Warbler*, 49:18-19, 1973) in a similar article on habitat change reported the creation of "attractive feeding and nesting habitat" in Hancock County as a result of industrialization. I concur with his finding concerning industrialization and habitat change and feel the same changes have taken place in Breathitt County at the surface mine operations. The physiography and food supply, both artificially created, have attracted all the birds within the report. Although no quantitative data were taken on the available food supply, it can be assumed that grass seeds, aquatic and terrestrial invertebrates, and amphibians and fish from the farm ponds provided enough food to sustain all the species observed during this study.

9. Finally, an important factor to consider is the rate at which these mining operations are proceeding. It is my opinion that if rugged lands, such as that of reclaimed areas, continue to be developed at the rate they are now, many of the species within this report will need to be considered for changes in status. Such species as the Water Pipit, the charadriiformes and others may prove to be more common and more easily located because of the increase of attractive habitat through surface mining.

It is terribly unfortunate that this data was gathered as a result of surface mined land. Much valuable habitat has been irretrievably destroyed in the process and no amount of reclamation can return this area to its original beauty. I hope that the data presented has added to our knowledge of the constantly changing avifauna in Kentucky and also changes that are taking place on the land in eastern Kentucky — Department of Science and Mathematics, Lees Junior College, Jackson, Ky. 41339.

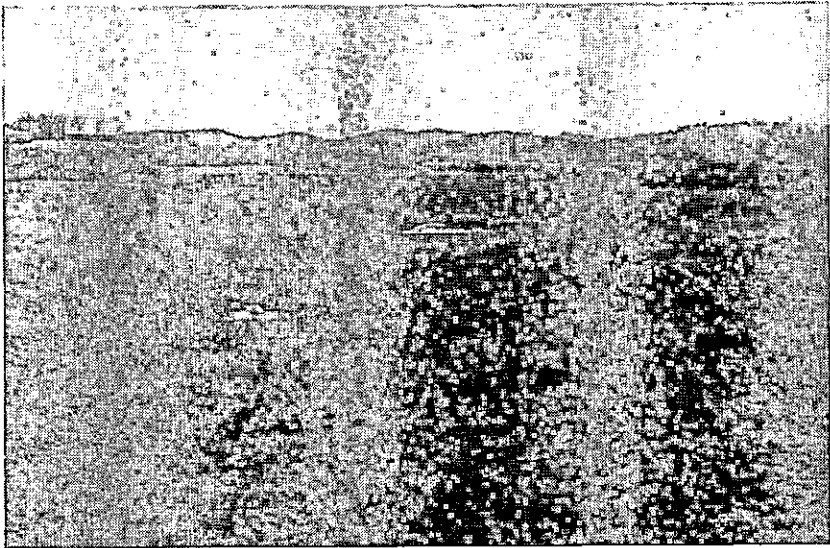
Table I. Compilation of species observed on reclaimed surface mines in Breathitt Co. (Spring, 1974).

Species	16 Mar.	23 Mar.	12 Apr.	28 Apr.	2 May	4 May	7 May
*Pied-billed Grebe ( <i>Podilymbus podiceps</i> )	1	1					
*Great Blue Heron ( <i>Ardea herodias</i> )							1
*Blue-winged Teal ( <i>Anis-discors</i> )							2
*Lesser Scaup ( <i>Aythya affinis</i> )	1						
*Hooded Merganser ( <i>Lophodytes cucullatus</i> )	2						
*Kildeer ( <i>Charadrius vociferus</i> )	1	1	1			1	
*American Golden Plover ( <i>Pluvialis dominica</i> )				1			
*Common Snipe ( <i>Capella gallinago</i> )	4	1				1	
Spotted Sandpiper ( <i>Actitis macularia</i> )					1	1	1
*Solitary Sandpiper ( <i>Tringa solitaria</i> )				1			1
*Greater Yellowlegs ( <i>Totanus melanocleucus</i> )				1	1	1	1
*Lesser Yellowlegs ( <i>Totanus flavipes</i> )				1		4	6

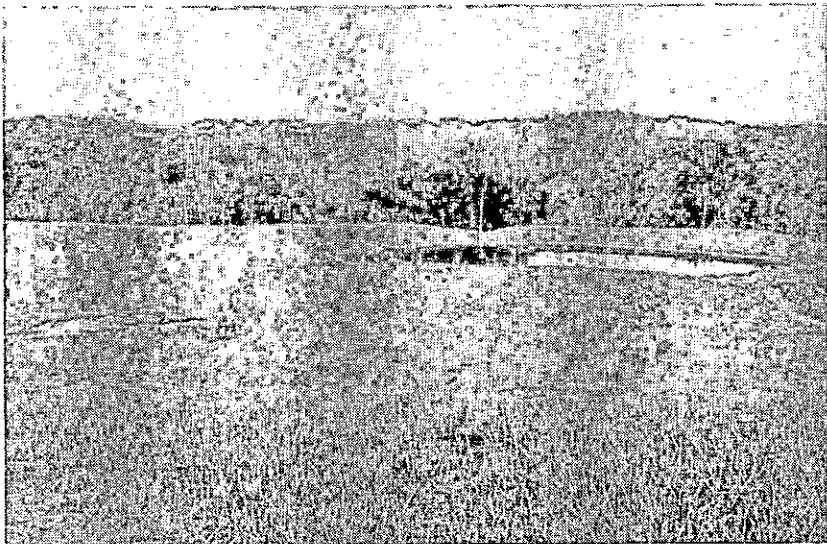
Species	16 Mar.	23 Mar.	12 Apr.	28 Apr.	2 May	4 May	7 May
*Baird's Sandpiper ( <i>Erolia bairdii</i> )				1	1	1	
*Least Sandpiper ( <i>Erolia minutilla</i> )							5
*Chimney Swift ( <i>Chaetura pelagica</i> )				15			3
*Horned Lark ( <i>Eremophila alpestris</i> )	10+	50+	25+	25+			5
*Tree Swallow ( <i>Iridoprocne bicolor</i> )						1	3+
*Bank Swallow ( <i>Riparia riparia</i> )							5+
*Rough-winged Swallow ( <i>Stelgidopteryx ruficollis</i> )			5	4	1	8	14+
*Barn Swallow ( <i>Hirundo rustica</i> )				2	6	3	7+
*Purple Martin ( <i>Progne subis</i> )				4			
*Water Pipit ( <i>Anthis spinoletta</i> )						8	2
*Eastern Meadowlark ( <i>Sturnella magna</i> )	50+	10+	10+			10+	5
*Savannah Sparrow ( <i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i> )	10+	5	2	6		1	8

\* County record. No previous record in literature





*Figure I. Reclaimed surface mine—approximately 25 kilometers (15 miles) east of Jackson, Breathitt County. This photo encompasses a large portion of the study area.*



*Figure II. Small farm pond (middle right) and marshy area (middle left) were favorite feeding spots for many of the shorebirds recorded during the study.*

## 1974 SPRING BIRD COUNTS

Five Spring Lists were submitted for publication this year, and three of the counts indicated the number of individuals and species. Bird counts made during the spring add to our knowledge of migratory movements and provide a challenge in identifying many species which we do not often see.

**HENDERSON AREA** — May 5; calm; temp. 43° to 75°. Total 98 species. The area covered included part of Henderson and Audubon Park. King Benson, Mrs. Ross Parsons, W. P. Rhoads (compiler), C. B. Smith, Virginia Smith, Margaret Stanley, Mr. and Mrs. Willis Wiley.

**CALHOUN** — Area within a five-mile radius of Calhoun in McLean County. May 4; partly cloudy and cool with gusting winds. Total 84 species, 760 individuals. James Conrad, Rosemary Conrad (compiler), Jarvis Hudson.

**BOWLING GREEN** — (Area essentially the same as the Christmas Count — a 15-mile diameter circle with the center Three Springs, 6 miles south of Bowling Green). April 20; 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Clear; slight wind. Total 117 species; individuals not recorded.

This count was made by K.O.S. members attending the spring meeting at Bowling Green. Most of the birds were observed in the vicinity of the transient lakes south of town. It does not include the five additional species observed on the following date. The Cattle Egret and Osprey were the two most unexpected species observed. Approximately 60 observers in several parties, H. E. Shadowen (compiler).

**LOUISVILLE** — (Christmas Count area plus southern Indiana and Bernheim Forest). — May 11; 2:30 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. Clear to overcast; temp. 63° to 78°. Total, 156 species, 5,776 individuals.

Excellent movement of migrants following four days of northerly winds and very little migration coupled with a fine array of lingering winter birds, notably northern finches, produced the highest species total ever recorded for the Louisville region. Leonard Brecher, Mrs. Virginia Calvert, Kathryn Clay, Mrs. F. C. Crowell, Wilbur and Violet Jackson, Burt Monroe (co-compiler), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Jim and Susan Pasikowski, Robert Patrick, Mrs. Charles Robertson, Mrs. F. P. Shannon, Mabel Slack, Lawrence Smith, Anne Stamm (co-compiler), Frederick Stamm, Donald Summerfield, Mrs. A. G. Susie (Beckham Bird Club).

(Editor's note: An unidentified Accipiter and the Rock Dove brought the total species count to 158.)

**NICHOLAS COUNTY** — May 11; clear to partly cloudy; early morning to 8:00 p.m. Total 99 species (100 if the Rock Dove is included), 1,219 individuals. The terrain of this small county in the Outer Bluegrass is rough and gently hilly with habitats from meadows to overgrown fields to sizable areas of hardwoods. The Licking river winds between wooded cliffs, and there is a 200-acre lake (Carnico). There were 19 species of warblers observed. Given Harper, Dr. and Mrs. Wendell Kingsolver.

	Henderson	Calhoun	Bowling Green	Louisville	Nicholas County
Common Loon		2		1	2
Pied-billed Grebe			x		
Great Blue Heron				1	
Green Heron		1	x	12	4
Little Blue Heron			x		
Common Egret				1	
Black-cr. Night Heron				38	
Yellow-cr. Night Heron	x			4	
Cattle Egret			1		
Canada Goose			x	15	
Mallard	x		x	35	20
Gadwall			x		
Blue-winged Teal			x	7	
American Widgeon			x		
Northern Shoveler			x		
Wood Duck		3	x	41	
Ring-necked Duck			x		
Lesser Scaup			x	2	
Common Merganser			x		
Red-br. Merganser				1	
Turkey Vulture	x	1	x	21	5
Black Vulture				3	
Cooper's Hawk	x				1
Red-tailed Hawk	x		x	5	3
Red-shouldered Hawk			x	2	
Broad-winged Hawk			x	2	2
Marsh Hawk	x				
Osprey			1		
American Kestrel			x	13	1
Ruffed Grouse					1
Bobwhite	x	7	x	40	2
Turkey				1	
American Coot			x	1	2
Semipalmated Plover			x		
Killdeer	x	12	x	28	5
Am. Golden Plover			x		
American Woodcock	x				
Common Snipe			x	1	
Upland Sandpiper			x		
Spotted Sandpiper			x	7	3
Solitary Sandpiper		1	x	5	
Greater Yellowlegs			x	1	
Lesser Yellowlegs	x		x	2	
Red Knot			x		
Pectoral Sandpiper			x	1	
Least Sandpiper			x	15	
Dunlin			x		
Short-billed Dowitcher			x	1	
Semipalmated Sandpiper				10	
Herring Gull				2	

	Henderson	Calhoun	Bowling Green	Louisville	Nicholas County
Ring-billed Gull				41	1
Mourning Dove	x	21	x	197	30
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	x			4	2
Black-billed Cuckoo					1
Screech Owl	x				
Great Horned Owl	x			1	
Barred Owl				1	
Chuck-will's-widow				4	
Whip-poor-will	x	1	x	5	1
Common Nighthawk				7	2
Chimney Swift	x	6	x	157	100
Ruby-th. Hummingbird	x	2	x	4	1
Belted Kingfisher	x		x	4	1
Yellow-sh. Flicker	x	4	x	39	2
Pileated Woodpecker	x		x	8	
Red-bellied Woodpecker	x	6	x	33	10
Red-headed Woodpecker	x	3	x	9	2
Yellow-bel. Sapsucker			x	1	
Hairy Woodpecker	x		x	3	1
Downy Woodpecker	x	3	x	18	8
Eastern Kingbird	x	6	x	28	4
Gr. Crested Flycatcher	x	4	x	38	10
Eastern Phoebe	x		x	14	3
Yellow-bel. Flycatcher	x			1	
Acadian Flycatcher	x	1		5	1
Willow Flycatcher	x			3	1
Least Flycatcher				4	
Eastern Wood Pewee	x	3		16	6
Horned Lark		10	x	6	
Tree Swallow			x	8	1
Bank Swallow				1	
Rough-winged Swallow			x	21	1
Barn Swallow	x	25	x	86	10
Cliff Swallow				1	
Purple Martin	x	12	x	59	30
Blue Jay	x	10	x	153	20
Common Crow	x	8	x	65	12
Carolina Chickadee	x	5	x	60	6
Tufted Titmouse	x	7	x	53	4
White-br. Nuthatch	x	1		5	
House Wren	x			28	4
Winter Wren			x		
Bewick's Wren			x	3	1
Carolina Wren	x	8	x	41	15
Mockingbird	x	4	x	34	3
Gray Catbird	x	4	x	54	8
Brown Thrasher	x	7	x	22	6
American Robin	x	7	x	489	50
Wood Thrush	x	4	x	60	25
Hermit Thrush			x	1	1

	Henderson	Calhoun	Bowling Green	Louisville	Nicholas County
Swainson's Thrush	x	8	x	100	4
Gray-cheeked Thrush			x	23	
Veery	x			16	4
Eastern Bluebird	x	14	x	26	12
Blue-gr. Gnatcatcher	x	12	x	33	6
Golden-cr. Kinglet	x				
Ruby-cr. Kinglet		4	x	2	
Water Pipit			x		
Cedar Waxwing			x	31	12
Loggerhead Shrike			x	4	
Starling	x	12	x	635	150
White-eyed Vireo	x	10	x	22	1
Yellow-throated Vireo	x	2		6	1
Solitary Vireo				3	
Red-eyed Vireo	x	5	x	40	6
Philadelphia Vireo			x	1	
Warbling Vireo	x	4	x	12	1
Black-and-white Warbler		3	x	8	6
Prothonotary Warbler		3	x	3	
Worm-eating Warbler	x			2	
Golden-w. Warbler	x	1			
Blue-winged Warbler				3	3
Tennessee Warbler	x	6		49	2
Nashville Warbler	x	5	x	12	
Parula Warbler		1	x	2	
Yellow Warbler	x	4	x	21	
Magnolia Warbler	x			10	15
Cape May Warbler				7	2
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	x			1	
Myrtle Warbler	x	6	x	52	2
Black-th. Green Warbler		3		17	15
Cerulean Warbler		3		3	
Blackburnian Warbler		2		8	6
Yellow-throated Warbler	x	1	1	5	
Chestnut-s. Warbler	x	1		19	12
Bay-br. Warbler	x			8	8
Blackpoll Warbler	x		x	25	
Pine Warbler				4	1
Prairie Warbler		2	x	9	4
Palm Warbler		4	x	6	1
Ovenbird		2		7	1
Northern Waterthrush		1	x	7	
Louisiana Waterthrush	x			7	2
Kentucky Warbler	x	3		10	6
Mourning Warbler				1	
Common Yellowthroat	x	15	x	56	6
Yellow-br. Chat	x	9	x	17	6
Hooded Warbler	x			4	
Wilson's Warbler				1	
Canada Warbler				1	

	Henderson	Calhoun	Bowling Green	Louisville	Nicholas County
American Redstart	x	1		5	8
House Sparrow	x	25	x	161	50
Bobolink				22	
Eastern Meadowlark	x	12	x	109	30
Red-winged Blackbird	x	80	x	304	50
Orchard Oriole	x		x	24	10
Baltimore Oriole	x	2		36	12
Rusty Blackbird	x				
Common Grackle	x	91	x	603	150
Brown-h. Cowbird	x	15	x	113	50
Scarlet Tanager	x	6	x	18	6
Summer Tanager	x	7		18	4
Cardinal	x	35	x	191	12
Rose-br. Grosberk	x	10	x	18	6
Blue Grosbeak				1	
Indigo Bunting	x	24	x	137	40
Dickcissel	x			7	
Evening Grosbeak	x			2	
Purple Finch	x		x	3	
Pine Siskin				18	
American Goldfinch	x	13	x	96	3
Rufous-sided Towhee	x	17	x	71	20
Savannah Sparrow		2	x	4	
Grasshopper Sparrow		1	x	7	
Bachman's Sparrow			x		
Slate-col. Junco	x		x		
Chipping Sparrow	x	2	x	13	12
Field Sparrow	x	49	x	28	10
White-cr. Sparrow	x	3	x	20	1
White-thr. Sparrow	x	11	x	16	10
Fox Sparrow	x				
Lincoln's Sparrow		2		5	
Swamp Sparrow			x	1	
Song Sparrow	x	6	x	123	4
DATE OF COUNT	May 5	May 4	Apr. 20	May 11	May 11
SPECIES	98	84	117	156	99
INDIVIDUALS	x	760	x	5,776	1,219
OBSERVERS	7	3	*	19	3

x Numbers of individuals not recorded.

\* K.O.S. Spring meeting.

## THE 1974 ONE-DAY BALD EAGLE COUNT

ANNE L. STAMM

The Kentucky Ornithological Society's One-Day Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) Count, conducted in cooperation with the Mississippi Valley Winter Bald Eagle Survey, was taken on February 16, 1974. Ten large and five small bodies of water were covered. These ranged from the Ohio River at Columbus and Wickliffe in western Kentucky to Chenoa Lake in Bell county in the southeastern section of the state. Although some new areas in eastern Kentucky (Grayson Lake, Buckhorn Lake, Chenoa Lake and Ray Harm's private lake) were included this year, the section from Henderson downstream to Caseyville was not covered. The latter section usually produces a count of from four to six Bald Eagles. Robert Bolds of the Fish and Wildlife Service usually checks this area for K.O.S. but was unable to do so this year because of illness. The day was fairly mild with the temperature ranging from 30 to 60 degrees. The sky cover was cloudy to clear. The wind was very calm to ten miles per hour in some areas and from the north in the morning hours to a southerly direction in the afternoon.

Forty-six observers in 20 parties participated in the count and a few of these remained in the field from 7:15 a.m. to sunset. Our total count for the day was 45 Bald Eagles — 23 adults and 22 immatures. The open waters in all areas may have dispersed the eagles and perhaps was responsible for the low numbers. Mr. Vernon Anderson, biologist at Ballard County Waterfowl Management Area, stated that "there seems to be considerably fewer eagles on the area this season than in the past season. There has been no change in wildlife populations on the area from past seasons to cause such a decrease." It is of further interest that a large concentration of Bald Eagles was farther south at Reelfoot Lake during the time of the K.O.S. count and even later in the month.

All Bald Eagles listed in the table below were observed on February 16, 1974, with the exception of those sighted at Dam #50, Wolf Creek Dam and Dale Hollow Lake. They were seen on the following day, February 17.

Location	Adults	Immatures	Not Aged	Total
Ballard Waterfowl Management Area	1	1	0	2
Columbus - Wickliffe	0	0	0	0
Land Between the Lakes	10	12	0	22
Dam #50	7	4	0	11
Leavenworth, Ind. to Cannelton Dam	0	0	0	0
Ohio River from West Point to Rock Haven	1	1	0	2
Shanty Hollow	0	0	0	0
Harrods Creek to Westport, Ky.	0	0	0	0
Cumberland River - Wolf Creek Dam	2	2	0	4
Dale Hollow Lake	2	2	0	4
Grayson Lake	0	0	0	0
Licking River Area	0	0	0	0
Buckhorn Lake	0	0	0	0
Chenoa Lake and Ray Harm Lake	0	0	0	0
	23	22	0	45

In addition to the 45 Bald Eagles, five Golden Eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) were reported: three immatures at Land Between the Lakes (one at Ferguson Springs, by Dr. Clell Peterson, and two at Barnes Hollow, by Dr. Ray Nall and party); and two adult birds in the Ballard County Waterfowl Management Area, by Vernon Anderson.

The following K.O.S. members and guests contributed to this count: *Ballard Waterfowl Management Area*: Vernon Anderson; *Land Between the Lakes*: Anita and Robert Head, Mr. Hibbs, Ronald Howard, Marilyn Lawrence, Garry Massa, Dutra Paris, Ral Nall, Pansy Paris, Ralph Paris, Clell Peterson, Mr. Pettus, Robert Smith; *Columbus-Wickliffe*: Newton Belt; *Dam #50*: Chastain and James Frazer; *Leavenworth to Cannelton Dam* (Indiana side of Ohio River): George Crabtree, Lawrence Smith; *West Point to Rock Haven*: Al Byrd, Wilbur and Violet Jackson, Alan Shadbourne, Anne L. Stamm and Frederick W. Stamm, Donald Summerfield; *Shanty Hollow*: Herbert E. Shadowen; *Harrods Creek to Westport, Kentucky*: James and Susan Pasikowski, Dottie Muntan; *Licking River*: Virginia and Wendell Kingsolver; *Cumberland River-Wolf Creek Dam*: Dennis Coskren, Faith Hershey, Robert Morris; *Dale Hollow Lake*: Billie and Robert Moore; *Grayson Lake*: Ercel Kozee; *Buckhorn Lake*: Pierre N. Allaire, Bes Douthitt, Sister Margaret-Mary, Sister Rozella, Rome Sewall, Tom Smith; *Chenoa Lake and Ray Harm Lake* (private): Millie and Ray Harm and son.

Special thanks are due the biologists from the Fish and Wildlife Service who assisted with the project. And, of course, thanks are extended to all participants. — 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40222.

## FIELD NOTES

### A TRUE ALBINO MOURNING DOVE

It has been my custom to scatter cracked corn mixed with wheat and milo on my driveway throughout the fall and winter months for the benefit of ground feeding birds. These include Song Sparrows, Juncos (and alas, House Sparrows, Grackles, Starlings, and Pigeons) and a variable flock of three to ten Mourning Doves (*Zenaidura macroura*).

On the morning of February 26, 1974, I glanced out the window and was surprised to see an all white bird feeding with six normal doves. Closer scrutiny at the distance of 25 feet showed it to be a pure white Mourning Dove. I went to get my binoculars to verify the details, but when I returned all of the doves had flown.

On Sunday afternoon, March 3, I received a call from my neighbor to come over and identify a strange white bird feeding in their yard. I took my binoculars and at a distance of 20 feet observed an albino Mourning Dove walking about the lawn. My movements probably disturbed it because it flew to a bare limb of a walnut tree 30 feet from us and ten feet off the ground. We were able to determine that the feathers were pure white throughout with no dark shading. The feet and bill were whitish in color and the eyes were pink.



A close watch has been kept for the return of this dove, but up to the present writing, July 1974, it has not been noticed again. — LEONARD BRECHER, 1900 Spring Drive, Louisville 40205.

## RED JUNGLEFOWL COLONY IN KENTUCKY

A colony of semidomestic and partially hybridized Red Junglefowl (*Gallus gallus murglii*) has become established in the partially thicketed area between the east bank of the Tradewater River and the western and northerly city limits of Dawson Springs, Kentucky north of U. S. Highway 62. The size of the colony may approach 100 birds ranging over more than 100 acres.

On June 5, 1974 I interviewed Mr. A. J. Moran who owns an 86 acre farm at the north end of Franklin Street in Dawson Springs. He stated that he did not have any domestic chickens. A pair of Red Junglefowl with leg bands and colored neck tags came to his property about ten years ago. The progeny of this pair and perhaps associated birds have been on his property since that time. The first Red Junglefowl release made by the Department of Fish and Wildlife was on the Jones-Keeney Wildlife Area some four miles to the southeast on August 25, 1964.

Mr. Moran feels that the flock using his property contains about 30-40 birds. I personally observed at least 15 birds and two broods of chicks. Some of his neighbors also have birds on their property. The flock at Mr. Moran's farm ranges over approximately 20' acres of thicket composed of dense stands of maple saplings, maturing trees, honeysuckle, and brambles, and includes a hog lot where the birds feed regularly. It is not uncommon to observe birds near his home or barn lot.

Most cocks in the Moran flock carry their tail feathers erect, indicating they may be the progeny of Red Junglefowl and game or bantam domestic chicken crosses. Pure strain Red Junglefowl normally carry their sickle-shaped tail horizontal to the ground. The birds did not display any especially wild behavioral characteristics, but they would often fly when pursued closely or alarmed and perch in a nearby tree, where they would remain cackling for a short period of time. They seemed to particularly like the hog pen, which had a thick canopy of brush overhead but was relatively open near the ground allowing freedom of movement. Hens with trailing broods of chicks were not observed to leave heavy cover.

If this colony is expanding its range it is not readily apparent and in all probability is dependent on the artificial food supplies made available by sympathetic property owners, either directly or indirectly through livestock feeding operations. Mr. Moran believes the size of his flock has remained about the same for the past five years. — CARL E. KAYS, Box 7, Earlington 42410.

## FALL MEETING

As announced previously the Kentucky Ornithological Society Fall Meeting will be held at Cumberland Falls State Park on October 4-6. If you have slides or papers to present at the Friday evening meeting, please contact A. L. Whitt, Dept. of Biology, Eastern Kentucky Univ., Richmond, Ky. at your earliest convenience.