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The Kentucky Warbler

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IN THIS ISSUE

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT, 1976-1977	3
ABERRANT PIGMENTATION IN KENTUCKY BIRDS, Pierre Allaire	13
FIELD NOTES	17
NEWS AND VIEWS	19

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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OUR COVER

The photograph of these birders in the Land Between the Lakes was provided by Ray Nall, KOS member from Golden Pond.

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT 1976-1977

Twenty-two counts were reported this year; one count is not included in the list of counts because it did not arrive until after the list was typed. The 119 reported species is three less than the number reported last year. The weather was extremely mild a year ago; we had normal winter weather this season during the count period, with extreme cold not arriving until later during some of the last counts.

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Trace and Mulberry Flat Roads juncture; habitat as previously described). — Dec. 19; 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Partly cloudy, clearing; Temp. 46-63°; wind S, 2-6 m.p.h. Fifteen observers in five parties. Total party-hours 40 (12.5 on foot, 24 by car, 3.5 by boat). Total party miles 170 (16 on foot, 142 by car, 22 by boat). Total 76 species, 1,510,405 individuals.

Lake levels on both lakes were down because of the dry fall, but the only effect was the increased numbers of Killdeer and the unusual Common Snipe on the Lake Barkley mudflats. Hematite Lake had been drained in early summer with the expectation of early winter rains filling it, but it remained empty and deprived us of a number of possible species of ducks. Raptors, with the exception of Red-tailed Hawks, seem to be more scarce every year. Alarmingly, this is one of the very few Christmas Counts in the area which produced no Red-shouldered Hawk except for the identifiable remains of one. The cause of death could not be determined, but it is reasonable to assume a "hunter" shot it, since it was found in an open field. The Starling roost at Kentucky Dam seems to be smaller this year, at least at the time of the count. A Marshall County health officer has estimated the roost this year at 2,500,000. — Jim Campbell, Brian and Larry Doyle, Diane Gallimore, Willard Gray, Bob Head, Don and Gina Manning, David Mikulcik, Ray Nall, Judy Parker, Clell Peterson (compiler), Lawrence and LouAnn Philpot, Edwin Ray.

MARION (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Forest Grove). — Jan. 2; 6:15 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Temp. 8-34°; wind NNW, 0-5 m.p.h. Two observers in one party. Total party-hours 9:45 (7:45 on foot, 2 by car). Total party-miles 45 (5 on foot, 40 by car). Total: 53 species, 24,708 individuals. — C. L. Frazer (compiler), James A. Frazer.

HENDERSON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center junction of Airline Road, Duncan Lane, to include Audubon State Park and eastern edge of Sloughs Wildlife Management area). — Dec. 19; 6:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; wind S, 10-20 m.p.h. Twelve observers in seven parties. Total party-hours 75 (54 on foot, 21 by car). Total party-miles 380 (48 on foot, 332 by car). Total 77 species, 49,630 individuals. — King Benson, Ben Burnley, Ron Dodson (compiler), Bertha Hartung, James

Lodata, Mrs. Ross Parsons, W. P. Rhoads, Nancy Richardson, Mrs. Charles Smith, Virginia Smith, Edna Vogel, Mrs. Willis Wiley.

SORGHO (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Sorgho; same area and habitat as covered in past years). — Dec. 27; 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.; Cloudy and windy; temp. 25 to 35°; wind 5-10 m.p.h. Five observers in two parties. Total party-hours 15½ (15 on foot, ½ by car). Total party-miles 53 (13 on foot, 40 by car). Total 44 species, 3,431 individuals. — Joe Ford (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. Raymon Iles, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Wilson.

YELVINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center approximately Highway 60 near Blackford Creek near Maceo). — Jan. 1; 9:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Temp. 0-10°; wind 5-10 m.p.h. Six observers in three parties. Total party-hours 10 (8 on foot, 2 by car). Total party-miles 28 (6 on foot, 22 by car). Total 46 species, 978 individuals.

The Ohio River Bottoms from Maceo to River Road thence to Blackford Creek were covered, with frequent stops along the river and creek. Carpenter's Lake and environs were explored thoroughly. A significant number of birds was observed by Mrs. Maudie Ray at her yard and feeder. Weather was very cold with a chill factor of -24°. — Joe Ford, Ray Iles, A. L. Powell (compiler), Mildred Powell, Maudie Ray, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Wilson.

MADISONVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center James W. Hancock farm; Brown road, Elk Creek, Ky. 892, and two lakes at Madisonville); deciduous woodlands and thickets 50%, lake shore 30%, and open fields 20%. — Dec. 26; 6:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Partly cloudy; temp. 25-48°; wind NW, 12-18 m.p.h. Lakes partially frozen. Ten observers in two parties. Total party-hours 20 (18 on foot, 2 by car). Total party-miles 48 (8 on foot, 40 by car). Total 55 species, 8,117 individuals.

Robins came over the Hancock home in large flocks in early morning, but in even larger numbers over Lake Pewee and adjoining fields in later afternoon, all flying in a more or less southerly direction. These were the most robins seen here in many years. — Harry Carter, Frank Clayton, Thelma Gentry, James W. Hancock (compiler), Andrew Johnson, Gordon Johnson, Susie Johnson, Allen Morgan, Mary Travis, and Nathaniel Travis.

PENNYRILE FOREST STATE PARK (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Park lodge area) — deciduous and pine woods and fields within the park area, Pennyrile Lake and adjoining farmlands; wooded areas 60%, open fields 10%, farmland 10%, lake shore 20%. — Dec. 19; 6:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m.; temp. 50-57°; wind SW, 8-12 m.p.h. Weather variable; cloudy to partly cloudy; slight drizzle. Two observers in one party. Total party-hours 10 (8 on foot, 2 by car). Total party-miles 14 (8 on foot, 6 by car). Total 41 species, 400 individuals.

Robins and Goldfinches are rather common within the park this season, but Golden-crowned Kinglets appear to be scarce. — Peyton Adams, James W. Hancock (compiler).

BOWLING GREEN (all points within a 15-mile circle, center Three Springs, 6 miles south of Bowling Green; same area and habitats as covered in previous years). — Dec. 18; 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; temp. 31-63°; wind S, 0-15 m.p.h. Clear to partly cloudy. Ten observers in four parties. Total party-hours 24 (20 on foot, 4 by car). Total party-miles 126 (16 on foot, 110 by car). Total 58 species, 4,213 individuals.

Weather conditions were ideal, but birds seemed more scarce in numbers than in past years. There were no large roosts within the count area this year. — Mrs. Kenneth Deputy, Scott Ford, Wayne Mason, Homer Parrent, Jeb and Sim and Steve Pickard, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Saxton, H. E. Shadowen (compiler).

MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Turnhole Bend). — Dec. 19; 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; temp. 35-62°; wind 5-15 m.p.h. Clear to cloudy with slight drizzle during part of count period. Nine observers in three parties. Total party-hours 22 (17 on foot, 5 by car). Total party-miles 122 (12 on foot, 102 by car). Total 48 species, 3,864 individuals.

The only unusual species recorded was a Vesper Sparrow. The white outer tail feathers and streaked breast were obvious as the bird fluttered about in the vegetation along Sloan's pond but refused to leave the area. — Mrs. James Gillenwater, Silbert Hartis, Arlie Hogan, George Johnson, Wayne Mason, Jeb and Steve Pickard, A. L. Powell, H. E. Shadowen (compiler).

GLASGOW (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Barren County Courthouse on Public Square of Glasgow). — Dec. 31; 6:15 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; temp. 2-12°; wind 5-10 m.p.h. Three observers in three parties. Total party-hours 21 (17½ on foot, 3½ by car). Total party-miles 60 (19 on foot, 41 by car). Total 62 species, 2,856 individuals.

The horribly cold weather, with ice-covered streets and roads was expected to hamper the count; however, the results proved it possibly the best Christmas Count ever for this area. — Mrs. James Gillenwater, George P. Johnson III, Wayne Mason (compiler).

OTTER CREEK PARK (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center 2 miles southwest of park entrance, area as described 1972). — Dec. 26; 7:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Clear in a.m., partly cloudy in p.m. temp. 23° to 42°; wind SWW, 10-35 m.p.h.; fresh water partly open, all ponds frozen; wild food crop excellent. Eleven observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 40 (27 on foot, 13 by car). Total party-miles 117 (27 on foot, 90 by car). Total 61 species, 5,750 individuals.

The low-lying farmlands adjacent to the Ohio River were dry this year, and few species of ducks were sighted. The Great Blue Heron is seldom recorded on this census, but this year three birds were reported by John Hoogerheide. The Long-billed Marsh Wren is our first census record. The bird was found by Wilbur Jackson in a marshy area near the slough which empties into the Ohio River. All field marks were noted,

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42	8	16		*	42			6	1	116	480	2				1	3	1		
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26	*	4	9	5	14	43	80	38	32	114	527	42	3	28	2	33	1	28	1	
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222	2	22	11	20	18	60	35	61	19	289	614	5	46	67	42	14	36	49	17	17
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312	25	48	82	49	7	57	85	74	62	221	1842	8	42	66	38	104	73	91	11	2
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20		1	1	10	12			35	6	26	79			2	7	4	14			
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DAY OF COUNT	D 19	J 2	D 27	J 1	D 26	D 19	D 18	D 19	D 31	D 26	D 26	D 19	D 28	D 18	D 30	J 1	D 18	D 11	D 20	D 18	
SPECIES	76	53	44	46	55	41	58	48	62	61	70	86	50	64	61	41	73	52	44	52	31
INDIVIDUALS	1510405	24708	3431	978	8117	400	4213	3864	2856	5750	7300	43271	40832	8471	4905	734	5668	1214	1075	222	2417
OBSERVERS	15	2	5	6	10	2	10	9	3	11	12	37	5	36	27	5	26	13	21	5	10

* indicates the species was recorded but not on the count day.

including the streaked back and pronounced white stripe over the eye. The Gray Catbird, heard several times by F. W. Stamm, was in a dense honeysuckle thicket, which covers the ground and extends upward some four or five feet. Few blackbirds were seen. However, large numbers of Robins apparently had a roost in the general vicinity. A total of 2,580 were counted and is the largest number ever recorded on an Otter Creek count. Some species were low in numbers, especially the American Goldfinch, Field Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, and Swamp Sparrow. — Mary Bauer, Joseph Croft, J. Hoogerheide, Barry Howard, Violet Jackson, Wilbur Jackson, John Krull, Eric Neff, Patti Ogden, Anne L. Stamm (compiler), Frederick W. Stamm.

BERNHEIM FOREST (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Forest Lookout Tower 2.75 miles SE of forest entrance). — Dec. 26; 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; temp. 24-41°; wind NW, 10-20 m.p.h. Twelve observers in five parties. Total party-hours 47.5 (26.5 on foot, 21 by car). Total party-miles 303 (22 on foot, 281 by car). Total 70 species, 7,300 individuals.

The most exciting finds for this count were the Golden Eagle, seen by Brainard Palmer-Ball Jr. and Don Parker; the Merlin, seen by Dottie Muntan, V. N. Calvert, and Bernheim Ranger Stanley Chesler; and the Common Redpoll seen by Lene Rauth and Diane Elmore. All Field marks were noted on the Golden Eagle including its golden neck feathers and its large size when seen with a harassing Cooper's Hawk. The Merlin was seen by observers familiar with the species with all field marks seen including the banded tail. The Common Redpoll was well seen as close as 20 feet feeding with Purple Finches and American Goldfinches. — Robert Allen, V. N. Calvert, George Crabtree, Lysbeth Davis, Diane Elmore, Jackie Elmore (compiler), Dot Muntan, Jerry Olsen, Brainard Palmer-Ball Jr., Donald Parker, Lene Rauth, L.D. Smith.

LOUISVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Jct. Hwys. 42 and 22; area and habitat coverage as described 1972). — Dec. 19; 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Partly cloudy; temp. 41 to 63°; wind SW, 0-15 m.p.h. All water open. Thirty-seven observers in 12 parties. Total party-hours 124 (80 on foot, 44 by car). Total party-miles 593 (68 on foot, 525 by car). Total 86 species, 43,271 individuals.

Very few rarities were reported this year. An unidentified sandpiper was noted in flight by Judy Robertson's party; it possibly was a Spotted Sandpiper, which has never been recorded here in winter, although identification to species was not positive. A pair of Shovelers noted by Brainard Palmer-Ball Jr. was the first record of this species in many years for a winter count. Snow Buntings have been showing up for the past few winters; the single individual recorded was seen by several observers in Judy Robertson's party. Of great interest is the sharp decline in total numbers, due primarily to the failure of two local starling-blackbird roosts to develop this year, perhaps as a result of the early, severe low temperatures in November and December. A few species were present in higher numbers than ever before, including Great Blue Heron, Rock Dove, Mourn-

ing Dove, Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch and White-throated Sparrow. — Robert Allen, Mary Bauer, Altha Cain, Virginia Calvert, Dr. and Mrs. Herbert Clay, George Crabtree, Joseph Croft, Bess Douthitt, Diane and Jackie Elmore, Katherine Fulkerson, Doris Garst, Barry Howard, Frank and John Krull, Burt Monroe Jr. (compiler), Dottie Muntan, Patti Ogden, Brainard Palmer-Ball Jr., Donald Parker, James and Susie Pasikowski, Robert Quaife, Lene Rauth, Judy Robertson, Tim Ramage, Carl Schultz, Helga Schutte, Mrs. Eugene Short, Mabel Slack, L. D. Smith, Anne and F. W. Stamm, Al and Midge Susie (Beckham Bird Club).

SHELBYVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at Hooper near Interstate 64, as described in 1974). — Dec. 28; 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Temp. 30 to 40°; wind NW, 10-20 m.p.h. Five observers in one party. Total party-hours 11 (5 on foot, 4 by car). Total party-miles 84 (7 on foot, 77 by car). Total 50 species, 40,832 individuals. — Lloyd Brown, Todd Brown, W. H. Brown (compiler), Kerry Morgan, and Mark Roberts.

DANVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Boyle County Courthouse, as described in *American Birds*, 1972). — Dec. 18; 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Clear and sunny; temp. 26-60°; wind NW to SE, 0-10 m.p.h. Water in streams and ponds partly open. Thirty-six observers in 10 parties. Total party-hours 72 (32 on foot, 40 by car). Total party-miles 460 (37 on foot, 423 by car). Total 64 species, about 8,471 individuals.

Figures for Red-tailed Hawks and Horned Larks were unusually high. Nearly all of the Horned Larks were reported by John A. Cheek of Ann Arbor, Mich. The numbers of Red-winged Blackbirds and Brown-headed Cowbirds were unusually low. — W. C. Alcock, Ernest Baird, Al Byrd, Molly Caldwell, Annette and John Cheek, E. W. Cook, Lois Corcoran, Neil Eklund, Gordon and Jean Freese, Margaret and Scott Glore, Edna Heck, Frank Heck (compiler), Dorothy Hill, Moseill Jester, Jack Kellam, J. W. Kemper, Tad Kreamer, Jane Larson, Ann and John Lawrence, Arthur Leche, F. W. and Naomi Loetscher, Michael Marsh, Robert Rakestraw, Louise and Wilbur Robinson, Mary Roose, John Sieweke, Barry Spoonamore, Marjorie Steer, Betty Ullrich, H. M. Wiley.

FRANKFORT (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at Junction of U.S. 127 and Ky. 1900; area as described in 1972). — Dec. 18; 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Temp. 26 to 56°; wind SE, 0-8 m.p.h. Water partly open, ground bare. Twenty-seven observers in 11 parties. Total party-hours 65 (45 on foot, 20 by car). Total party-miles 186 (39 on foot, 147 by car). Total 61 species, 4,905 individuals.

Hawks were predominant on the Frankfort Count. The Merlin was the most noteworthy find, making its first Count appearance. The bird was observed perched and in flight by Dennis CosKren and Rik Watson with appropriate size, shape and field marks noted. Good numbers of Screech Owls and Great Horned Owls were found as the weather was

conducive to their calling. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were present in unusual numbers with many being found on the State Capitol grounds. Sparrows were well represented. — Gay Amburgy, W. P. Caine, Jr., Karen, Laura and Rose Canon, Dennis and Faith CosKren, Peggy Derryberry, James Durell, Steve Edwards, Alexander and Virginia Gilchrist, Scott Hankla, Howard Jones (compiler), Ann, Virginia, and Wendell Kingsolver, Betty Maxson, Ray McEntyre, Lewis and Mary Pfouts, Sally Rice, Stephen Rice, Rik Watson, Glen Wells, James Williams, Tim Williams.

KLEBER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at junction of US 227 and State Hwy. 845 in Owen County; area as described in 1972). — Dec. 30; 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Temp. 8-43°; wind SW, 5-29 m.p.h. Five observers in two parties. Total party-hours 14 (10 on foot, 4 by car). Total party miles 100 (10 on foot, 90 by car). Total 41 species, 734 individuals.

The most obvious difference for this year's count was the missing American Robins. This was probably due to the almost total absence of cedar berries. The overall wild food crop at Kleber is the poorest in recent years. Hawks provided the most interest with five species represented. A flock of 95 Black Ducks flew over in late afternoon, providing a nice conclusion to the day. Elmer Davis Lake and Cedar Creek were frozen and supported our weight, with only the Kentucky River being open water. — Peggy Derryberry, James Durell, Howard Jones (compiler), Margaret LaFontaine, Craig Wingate.

LEXINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center East Hickman on Tates Creek Pike, as described in 1972). — Jan. 1; 6:30 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Temp. 2 to 22°; wind SW to W, 5-14 m.p.h. Mostly clear in a.m. to clear in p.m. Grounds mostly frozen with few ponds open. Wild food crop fair. Twenty-five observers in 15 parties. Total party-hours 75 (23 on foot, 52 by car). Total party-miles 656 (21 on foot, 645 by car). Total 73 species, 5,668 individuals. — Ellen Allen, Lillian Baxter, Mary P. Burns, Ruth Davis, Lyda Feck, Mike and Jean Flynn, Wayne Hinkle, Ron Houp, Maud Hurt, Collin Hyde, Ruth E. Matthews, Robert Morris, Virginia Reece, Alfred M. Reece (compiler), Jerry Reece, Barbara Ruff, Connie and Rick Schwein, Andrew and Marion Uterhart, Rick Watson, Jim Williams, Jim E. Wood, Hilda Woods (Audubon Society of Kentucky, Inc.)

JACKSON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Hilltop Church as described in 1975). — Dec. 18; 6:15 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Temp. 30 to 50°; wind WSW, 0-10 m.p.h. Thirteen observers in seven parties. Total party-hours 40.5 (22 on foot, 18.5 by car). Total party-miles 138 (21.5 on foot, 116.5 by car). Total 52 species, 1,214 individuals. — Karen Abner, Pierre Allaire (compiler), Neel Daniel, Vicki Hucker, Fred Landrum, Casey Marton, Jack, Margaret and Peggy Payne, Mark Ritter, Rome Sewell, Tom Smith, Mark VanWinkle.

PINE MOUNTAIN SETTLEMENT SCHOOL (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at the Pine Mountain Church of God). — Dec. 11; 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Temp 45 to 55°; wind 0 m.p.h., Rain and fog most of day. Twenty-one observers in 14 parties. Total party-hours 82 (77 on foot, 5 by car). Total party-miles 56 (26 on foot, 30 by car). Total 44 species, 1,075 individuals. — Mr. and Mrs. Rufous Beasley, Julius Begley, Rob Belser (compiler), Matt Boggs, Liz Bradshaw, Alice Funk, Afton Garrison, Sam and Esther Lawson, Preston and Loie Lewis, Mary McIntyre, Steve and Pam McKee, Gail Peabody, Burton, Mary and Peter Rogers, Jack Whitfield, Mrs. E. L. Woolsey.

CUMBERLAND GAP NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK (all points within a 15-mile circle, center as described in 1975). — Dec. 18; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 28 to 60°; wind variable, 0-5 m.p.h. Five observers in one party. Total party-hours nine (7 on foot, 2 by car). Total party-miles 47 (6 on foot, 41 by car). Total 32 species, 222 individuals. — Steven M. Beatty (compiler), John and Susan Graves, Dorothy and William Thompson.

BURLINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center near Huey's Corner, area as described in 1975. — Dec. 18; 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Temp. 29 to 52°; wind NW, 5-20 m.p.h. Ten observers in two parties. Total party-hours 12.5 (nine on foot 3.5 by car). Total party-miles 103 (12 on foot, 91 by car). Total 31 species, 2,417 individuals. — Mike Andrews, Ed Ditterline, Gladys Ditterline, Lee McNeely (compiler), Lynda McNeely, Tom Otte, Marian Ruschman, Hazel Ulrey, Chuck Volle, Robert Wahl.

ABERRANT PIGMENTATION IN KENTUCKY BIRDS

PIERRE N. ALLAIRE

Within the past two years I have encountered a few cases of albinism in birds in eastern Kentucky. These sightings of rather uncommon individuals within bird species prompted the writing of this article for two main purposes. The first is a summary of the occurrence of these aberrant individuals in the state and second, the reporting of three more such occurrences in eastern Kentucky. Discussion relating to the variety of aberrant pigmentation conditions known to exist may be worthwhile at this time.

The most commonly reported type is albinism, a reduction or absence

of pigments in the feathers (Pettingill, 1970, Wallace, 1963, Witkop, 1975). Pettingill (*op. cit.*) list four degrees of albinism which are as follows:

“*Total albinism*, when all pigments are completely absent from the plumage, irises, and skin. *Incomplete albinism*, when the pigments are completely absent from the plumage, or irises, or skin, but not from all three. *Imperfect albinism*, when all the pigments are reduced (‘diluted’), or at least one of the pigments is absent, in any or all three areas. *Partial albinism*, when the pigments are reduced, or one or more is absent, from the parts of any or all three areas.”

Three other types exist. Melanism is the result of an excessive amount of melanin (brown or black) pigments. Erythrism and xanthochroism are due to reductions in melanin and retention of red or yellow pigments respectively. The underlying cause for these abnormalities is primarily genetic (Witkop, *op. cit.*). In some cases however, it may be due to dietary deficiencies (Pettingill, *op. cit.*).

Summary of Occurrence:

A review of *The Kentucky Warbler* from 1925 to the present showed that seventeen articles pertaining to albinism and its different forms and one dealing with melanism were published (Brecher, 1974; Carpenter, 1965; Left, 1959; Clotfelter, 1954; Cox, 1954; Ellison, 1973; Frazer, 1929; Frazer, 1941; Frazer, 1944; Gray, 1965; Hancock, 1947; Jansing, 1947; Keeley, 1953; Konsler, 1926; Loefer, 1941; Parson, 1961; Schneider, 1937; and Wilson, 1953).

The *Warbler* had reports of 22 different species totaling 62 individuals exhibiting some form of albinism, while there was but one case of melanism cited. Of the 22 albino species there were five species reported as total albinos. No records of erythroism or xanthochroism could be found. Table I summarizes these data.

Four Additional Records:

Two partially and one totally albinistic species have been seen within a five mile radius of the Lost Creek area of Breathitt County, Kentucky, east of Highway 15.

The first sighting was on 23 October 1974 when a partially albinistic sparrow was seen foraging with a mixed flock of Vesper (*Pooecetes gramineus*), Song (*Melospiza melodia*), Field (*Spizella pusilla*), Savannah (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), and Chipping (*Spizella passerina*) Sparrows. Photographs taken indicate that the bird probably was a Field Sparrow but absolute certainty would necessitate having the bird in hand and comparisons made with study skins.

The second observation was eight months later when in early May a partially albinistic buteo flew across the road I was traveling and sat in a nearby tree. I quickly jumped out of the car and watched the bird for some time. Judging from its size it probably was a Red-tailed Hawk, the commonest buteo species in the area.

My last observation was about six weeks later (26 June, 1975) when

the local game warden (James Deaton) brought in a pure albino American Robin. The bird was a first year male with rectrices (tail feathers) only half grown. The gape of the mouth was still yellow. The pink irides were present, as well as the white feet. Apparently the bird was ill since it did or could not fly. Unfortunately the bird died later on that afternoon and a study skin was made of the bird (U. L. No. 3974). The museum skin is on permanent loan to the Department of Science and Mathematics, Lees Jr. College in Jackson.

In addition one specimen was located in the University of Louisville vertebrate collection. The bird was a pure albino female (Juv.) Robin (U. L. No. 1350) collected by Burt Monroe, Sr. in Jefferson County, Kentucky on 8 August 1948.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I wish to thank Burt L. Monroe, Jr. for allowing access to the University of Louisville and Beckham Bird collections and for his comments during the preparation of this manuscript. — Department of Sciences and Mathematics, Lees Jr. College, Jackson, Ky. 41339.

TABLE I

List of albinistic and melanistic species reported in *The Kentucky Warbler* since 1926.

Species	Total	Partial	Melanistic
	Albino	Albino	
Turkey Vulture (<i>Cathartes aura</i>)		1	
<i>Buteo</i> sp.		2*	
Red-tailed Hawk (<i>Buteo jamaicensis</i>)		3	
Red-shouldered Hawk (<i>Buteo lineatus</i>)		1	
Bobwhite (<i>Colinus virginianus</i>)	1	1	
Mourning Dove (<i>Zenaida macroura</i>)	1		
Common (Y.-sh.) Flicker (<i>Colaptes auratus</i>)		1	
Blue Jay (<i>Cyanocitta cristata</i>)		1	
Common Crow (<i>Corvus brachyrhynchos</i>)		16	
Mockingbird (<i>Mimus polyglottos</i>)	5	2	
Gray Catbird (<i>Dumetella carolinensis</i>)		1	
Brown Thrasher (<i>Toxostoma rufum</i>)	1	1	
American Robin (<i>Turdus migratorius</i>)	4**	5	
House Sparrow (<i>Passer domesticus</i>)		7	
Eastern Meadowlark (<i>Sturnella magna</i>)			1
Red-winged Blackbird (<i>Agelaius phoeniceus</i>)		1	
Cardinal (<i>Cardinalis cardinalis</i>)		3	
Evening Grosbeak (<i>Pheucticus ludovicianus</i>)		1	
Dark-eyed (S.-c.) Junco (<i>Junco hyemalis</i>)		3	
Field Sparrow (<i>Spizella pusilla</i>)		1	
Fox Sparrow (<i>passerella iliaca</i>)		1	
Song Sparrow (<i>Melospiza melodia</i>)		1	
Sparrow sp.		1*	
TOTAL	23	54	1

* indicates 4 additional records for species reported in this paper.

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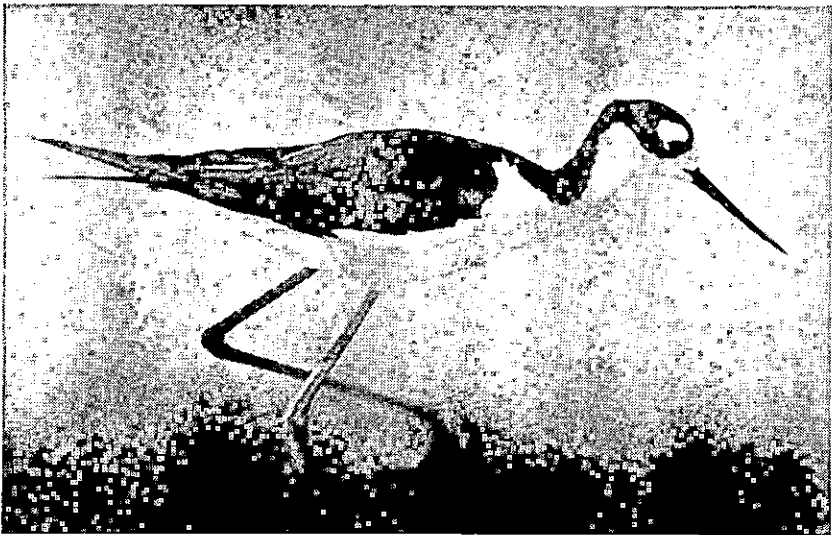
FIELD NOTES

BLACK-NECKED STILT IN FRANKLIN COUNTY

On July 23, 1976 I sighted a Black-necked Stilt (*Himantopus mexicanus*) at the Frankfort National Fish Hatchery, Franklin County, Kentucky. The solitary bird had apparently arrived at the hatchery two days prior to my sighting according to John Quam, hatchery manager. The bird, accompanied by Green Herons, Willets, Spotted Sandpipers, Wood Ducks, Mallards, and American Coots, was feeding on invertebrates and bass fry in a recently drained pond. The bird remained at the hatchery until August 9, 1976.

The observed stilt's feeding behavior over the 17 day period was cyclic, as with most birds. In the period from approximately 6:00 a.m. (dawn) until 10:00 a.m., the bird fed extensively. The period from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. the stilt did not feed significantly, and the time could be considered a resting period. The bird was again actively feeding from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (dusk) and apparently did not feed at night, although only spot checks were made to minimize disturbance. Activity periods did vary but the above patterns were generally true.

Mengel in *Birds of Kentucky* (1965) does not list the species as occurring in the state except for one unconfirmed sighting by Mrs. Lucas Brodhead, May 6 and 7, 1921, in Woodford County. — Albert G. Westerman, School of Biological Sciences, University of Kentucky, Lexington.



BLACK-NECKED STILT (*Himantopus mexicanus*). Photograph by Albert G. Westerman at the Frankfort National Fish Hatchery, July 25, 1976.

GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL IN KENTUCKY

On July 18, 1976, my husband, Frederick, and I drove to the Falls of the Ohio to check for migrating terns. Upon our arrival we found no terns, but four species of heron instead. During the time we examined the herons that fed near the slough, at the upper end of the rock shelf, I spotted the white head of a gull peering above a rock. I waited until the gull emerged from behind its hiding place and was extremely surprised to see an adult Great Black-backed Gull (*Larus marinus*). The gull was studied carefully for approximately one-half hour in excellent light, with a 20 X telescope. Both of us lived in New England for several years and are familiar with the species. We also photographed it there.

The gull appeared very large; its mantle was black in color, with a noticeable white posterior border on the primaries and secondaries. The neck was white as was the head and rest of the body. The feet and legs were pink. The yellow bill had a bright red spot near the tip of the lower mandible. The bird was striking in a black and white color pattern, and easily recognized.

I called Dr. Burt L. Monroe, Jr., to notify him of our discovery and to ask him to come and verify our identification before putting out a "bird alert." Also, I called Donald Summerfield to bring his telescope which has a higher power lens. Together the four of us studied the bird at rest and in flight. It did not mingle with the other birds on the rock shelf, except on one or two occasions when it flew to the wall of the dam and sat beside Black-crowned Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*). The gull was noticeably much larger than the herons.

We watched the gull fly to a large boulder, closer to us, but surrounded by swift water. We wanted to photograph it but the upper gates of the dam were open, and the swift current prevented boats from reaching the area. Therefore, we checked the gull very carefully and ruled out the following similarly appearing species: The Lesser Black-backed Gull (*L. fuscus*) and the Western Gull (*L. occidentalis*). The Lesser Black-backed Gull has bright yellow feet and legs in the breeding season and brownish yellow in non breeders. Also, the mantle is slate color. The Western Gull has less white at the tip of the wing, a slaty mantle and is smaller and about the size of a Black-crowned Night Heron.

Many local birders viewed this rarity to our area after a "bird alert" was put in effect. The gull was last seen on July 20th.

— ANNE L. STAMM, 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40222

NEWS AND VIEWS

We regret to report the death of two members of the Kentucky Ornithological Society from the Louisville area. Dr. Howard L. Hansberry, Louisville dentist, died on January 10, 1977, after a two-month illness. He served as president of the Louisville Chapter (Beckham Bird Club) during 1964 and 1966 and as a director in 1966 to 1968.

Mrs. Marie Pieper Schafer, a retired school teacher in the Jefferson County schools, died on January 11, 1977. She was secretary of the Louisville Chapter in 1944, 1945, 1953 and 1954 and served on several committees. She and her brother, Louis, were gracious hosts to the Louisville Chapter for the compilation of the Spring Counts for many, many years at their farm on River Road.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONCERNING THE RED-COCKADED WOODPECKER

At the K.O.S. Fall Meeting the Editor gave a report on the present status and future of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos borealis*) as recorded in a manuscript by Jerome A. Jackson and his co-workers (published in *The Kentucky Warbler*, Nov., 1976); they had discovered nesting sites of the species and had made recommendations for its management. Most of these recommendations were forwarded to Governor Julian Carroll and to the U. S. Forest Service after discussion at the Fall Meeting. On November 10, 1976 A. L. Whitt, Jr. and Herb Shadowen attended a hearing at Cumberland Falls State Park on management practices in Daniel Boone National Forest. The meeting was attended by several Forest Service personnel, lumbermen, sportsmen, and other interested people. We were pleased with the professional attitude of those present and with the remarks of Richard H. Wengert, Forest Supervisor, U. S. Forest Service, who stressed the fact that the Red-cockaded Woodpecker is on the Rare and Endangered Species List and will receive high priority in preservation and protection. We were impressed by the cooperative attitude of Personnel of the U. S. Forest Service.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: PURPLE MARTIN COLOR-MARKING

A large-scale Purple Martin color-marking project was initiated in 1975 for Prince George's and Montgomery Counties, Maryland and in 1976 for Saxis, Virginia. Observers are asked to look for and report any color-marked (wing tags and/or plastic leg bands) Purple Martins. Please record the color of the band, which leg it is on, age and/or sex (if either is known), where and when observed, and whether the bird was in a roost, staging flock, migratory flock, or established at a nest site. We are especially interested in the movements of young birds and their return rate to the parent colony or nearby colonies. All reports will be acknowledged and should be sent to Ms. Kathleen Klimkiewicz, 13117 Larchdale Rd. #2, Laurel, Md. 20811.

KOS SPRING MEETING

You are reminded of our spring meeting which will be again held at Mammoth Cave National Park. The dates are April 29, 30 and May 1.