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The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

VOL. 53

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IN THIS ISSUE

K.O.S. NEST-RECORD REPORT, 1976; Anne L. Stamm	23
ADDITIONAL CHANGES IN NOMENCLATURE OF KENTUCKY BIRDS, Burt L. Monroe, Jr.	25
SPRING MEETING, APRIL 29-MAY 1	27
FIELD NOTES	30

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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Editor H. E. Shadowen, Biology Department, Western Kentucky Univ.,
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Editorial Advisory Board

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

Burt L. Monroe, Jr.

OUR COVER

The photograph of two young owlets in the nest was taken by David Berry at Blandville in Ballard County.

K. O. S. NEST-RECORD REPORT, 1976

ANNE L. STAMM

The Kentucky Ornithological Society in cooperation with the Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, has participated in the North American Nest-record Card Program since its inception in 1965. During this period we have collected considerable information on the biology of birds and have added precise data for some species where heretofore little was known. It is interesting to note that K. O. S. has been cited by Cornell as one of its major contributors to this program.

This report for the 1976 breeding season has been made possible by the efforts of 20 contributors working in 13 counties ranging from Madison to McCracken in western Kentucky. These observers, whose names are listed below, reported a total of 165 active nests of 47 species, plus two instances of cowbird parasitism. These figures indicate a decrease in the number of nests over figures for most preceding years. However, this decrease may be a lack of reporting of active nests. It is to be hoped that in the future all members finding nests will take the time to complete nest cards.

The following is a complete list of persons who participated in this study during the 1976 season. Their efforts represent additional information to our knowledge of Kentucky birds. They are: W. O. Adams, W. H. Brown, Joseph E. Croft, Jackie Elmore, James W. Hancock, Virginia Hectorne, Mr. and Mrs. Ramon Iles, Violet and Wilbur Jackson, Howard P. Jones, Virginia Kingsolver, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Martha Pike, Father Terence Rhoades, Anne and Frederick W. Stamm, K. P. Vinsel, Rosita Watkins, and A. L. Whitt, Jr.

Although all contributions of time and effort are appreciated, special mention should be made of the work of Howard P. Jones, who reported the largest number of nests—53. The energetic nest-finding efforts of W. H. Brown resulted in the discovery of the second recorded nest of the Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*) in Kentucky. Also, Ramon Iles' detailed notes on the 12 nest cards of the Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) in McClean County merits mention. Listed below are other records of special interest.

Although Yellow-crowned Night Herons (*Nyctanassa violacea*) were observed in a number of places, the only definite breeding record was reported by Virginia Hectorne of Louisville. She observed a pair building a nest in a large sycamore tree in the woods adjacent to her back yard on May 25 and three large feathered young on July 29.

Howard P. Jones reported a nest of the Black Vulture (*Coragyps atratus*) with two eggs on May 9 in Franklin County. Six nests of the Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*) were reported: three in Franklin County (Jones); three in Shelby County (Brown). A completed nest of the Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platypterus*) was found in Bernheim Forest on May 1 by Father Terence Rhoades. Both adults were seen near the nest on May 10, but no further visits were made. American Kestrels (*Falco sparverius*) were much in evidence during the breeding season, but only one nest card was received; W. H. Brown found five eggs in a nest 11 feet above the ground in Shelby County on April 10, and five young on May 8.

A nest with four eggs of the Black-billed Cuckoo was found eight feet up in a sugar maple tree in Lyon County, September 5, and incubation noted on September 6 (Brown).

Three nests of the Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus*) were reported: adult on nest, February 9, McClean County (Iles); two downy young, Jefferson County, March 12 (Palmer-Ball, Jr.); in Shelby County two young were visible in a nest on April 3, and three birds on April 11 (Brown).

Two nests of the Tree Swallow (*Iridoprocne bicolor*), with young, were recorded on June 5, Jefferson County. The nests were in cavities of tree snags (A. Stamm).

Twelve nests of the Eastern Bluebird indicate clutches of three to six; egg dates range from April 11 to July 17, while dates for young in the nest range from April 18 to September 11 (Iles). Two other Bluebird nests were recorded in Shelby County (Brown) and one in Franklin County (Jones).

Howard P. Jones reported the nest of a Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiurus motacilla*), Franklin County, with precise data. The nest was located on a rock shelf in a ravine, and on May 7 it contained one egg and three young. Also, W. O. Adams recorded a nest of the Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*), with four eggs, June 24, Madison County.

A Cardinal (*Richmondia cardinalis*) nest was parasitized by the Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). The nest contained one host egg and two of the cowbird on April 16. One young cowbird was in the nest on May 6, and two on May 8; two cowbirds were still in the nest on May 13, but found dead on May 19. Virginia Kingsolver found the nest of an Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) parasitized by a cowbird on June 4 (3 host eggs and 1 cowbird egg). The cowbird egg was removed; three young Indigo Buntings were in the nest on June 26.

Other 1976 nest records, with usable data, include the following: Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*), 9; Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*), 2; Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*), 1; Yellow-shafted Flicker (*Colaptes auratus*), 1; Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Centurus carolinus*), 1; Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), 1; Eastern Phoebe (*Sayornis phoebe*), 1; Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), 10; Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*), 1; Carolina Chickadee (*Parus carolinensis*), 2; Tufted Titmouse (*Parus bicolor*), 1; House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*), 4; Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*), 8; Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*), 4; Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*), 1; Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*), 3; American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*), 18; Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), 2; Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*), 1; Prothonotary Warbler (*Protonotaria citrea*), 1; House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), 4; Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*), 5; Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), 6; Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*), 3; Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*), 2; Cardinal, 7; Indigo Bunting, 3; Rufus-sided Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*), 2; Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella passerina*), 2; Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*), 1; Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*), 2.

In addition to the Kentucky nest records, 10 nests of western and southwestern species of birds from Colorado, Idaho, and Texas, were submitted by W. H. Brown. Also, a Florida record of the nest of the Least Tern (*Sterna albifrons*) was submitted by Howard P. Jones.

Although all records have been mailed to Cornell and copies retained as a permanent file for reference and future study, we urge members to send us any completed cards they may have from the past season, or even previous seasons.

The Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell has suggested that "in order to maintain consistency of NRCP files" that we not use the new name changes in species of birds unless the identity of the species can not be determined. For example, use Yellow-shafted Flicker instead of Common Flicker, Baltimore Oriole instead of Northern Oriole. However, if you can not distinguish between the Alder Flycatcher (*Empidonax alnorum*) and the Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*) by the songs, then use Traill's Flycatcher. One further note, American Kestrel, Great Egret, Common Yellowthroat and Gray Catbird may be used, or their previous names. All other new name changes applicable in Kentucky will follow the same procedure as with the flicker mentioned above.

Although we are especially eager for nests of hawks, owls, and hole-nesting species, we also welcome records for the more common species of birds found in Kentucky. Naturally, the more detailed information the more valuable the record.

It may be well to mention that during the period of the Society's participation in this program that we have mailed to Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology a total of 2,843 nest cards for a total of 6,231 nests of 107 species of birds. (One card is used for colony nesting species such as Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) and the Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*.) This study has also resulted in the discovery of the first actual nests of six species—Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*), Least Tern, Black-billed Cuckoo, Parula Warbler (*Parula americana*), Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*) and Vesper Sparrow (*Poocetes gramineus*)—reported from Kentucky.

New cards are available from the writer or the editor. Please do not use obsolete cards, and use PENCIL when recording the data. Let's make 1977 a "banner year" for reporting all nests we find! We look forward to your continued participation this spring and summer.

—9101 Spokane Way, Louisville, Kentucky 40222.

ADDITIONAL CHANGES IN NOMENCLATURE OF KENTUCKY BIRDS

BURT L. MONROE, JR.

Recently (Monroe, *Ky. Warbler* 50: 3-8, 1974) I published nomenclatural changes involving Kentucky birds brought about by revisions passed by the American Ornithologists' Union Committee on Classification and Nomenclature and published in *The Auk* (1973, 90: 411-419) as the "Thirty-second Supplement . . ." to the "Check-list of North American Birds", 5th edition (1957). The goal now set by the A.O.U. Committee, of which I am presently a member, is for publication of the 6th edition in the early 1980s. In the interim, additional supplements will appear for updating avian nomenclature, and we should continue to incorporate these to stay current with the national ornithological organizations. The "Thirty-third Supplement . . ." has now been published in *The Auk* (1976, 93: 875-879), and the changes listed below are ones affecting treatment of Kentucky species.

In general, most changes are the results of lumpings at the generic level (*Hydroprogne* in *Sterna*, *Centurus* in *Melanerpes*, *Dendrocopos* in *Picoides*, *Telmatodytes* in *Cistothorus*, *Cassidix* in *Quiscalus* [Hypothetical List], and *Acanthis* and *Spinus* in *Carduelis*). Two lumpings at the species level involve names of the Kentucky species (*Butorides virescens*, the Green Heron, in the tropical *B. striatus*, the Striated Heron, and *Parus atricristatus*, the Black-crested Titmouse, in *P. bicolor*, the Tufted Titmouse). One misspelling is corrected, and one binomial becomes a trinomial for consistency. The new Kentucky listings involved will be as follows:

- Butorides striatus* (Linnaeus). Green Heron.
Butorides striatus virescens subspecies group. Northern Green Heron.
Butorides striatus virescens (Linnaeus).
- Ictinia mississippiensis* (Wilson). Mississippi Kite.
- Sterna caspia* Pallas. Caspian Tern.
- Melanerpes carolinus* (Linnaeus). Red-bellied Woodpecker.
Melanerpes carolinus carolinus (Linnaeus).
- Picoides villosus* (Linnaeus). Hairy Woodpecker.
Picoides villosus villosus (Linnaeus).
- Picoides pubescens* (Linnaeus). Downy Woodpecker.
Picoides pubescens medianus (Swainson).
- Picoides borealis* (Vieillot). Red-cockaded Woodpecker.
Picoides borealis borealis (Vieillot).
- Campephilus principalis* (Linnaeus). Ivory-billed Woodpecker.
Campephilus principalis principalis (Linnaeus).
- Parus bicolor* (Linnaeus). Tufted Titmouse.
Parus bicolor bicolor, (Linnaeus). Eastern Tufted Titmouse.
- Cistothorus palustris* (Wilson). Long-billed Marsh Wren.
Cistothorus palustris palustris (Wilson).
Cistothorus palustris dissaeptus (Bangs).
- Quiscalus major* (Vieillot). Boat-tailed Grackle [Hypothetical List].
- Carduelis flammea* (Linnaeus). Common Redpoll.
Carduelis flammea flammea (Linnaeus).
- Carduelis pinus* (Wilson). Pine Siskin.
Carduelis pinus pinus (Wilson).
- Carduelis tristis* (Linnaeus). American Goldfinch.
Carduelis tristis tristis (Linnaeus).

Once again these changes are considered to be "noncontroversial" and reflect general usage today in the primary literature. Other changes will undoubtedly be forthcoming in the form of future supplements as work towards the sixth edition of the "Check-list" proceeds.

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
SPRING MEETING

April 29, 30, May 1, 1977

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its fifty-fourth Annual Spring Meeting at Mammoth Cave National Park on April 29, 30, and May 1, 1977 with registration set for 5:00 p.m. at the Hotel Lobby.

The first general session was opened with a welcome by President A. L. Whitt in the Hotel Annex at 7:30 p.m. Dr. Uterhart, Vice-president, introduced Andy Morton of Knoxville, Tennessee, who heads the TVA Heritage Program. This Program is seeking threatened and endangered nesting localities and unique birding habitats within the TVA power source area encompassing 201 counties, 21 of which are in western Kentucky. Mr. Morton gave detailed information on the scope of the work—gathering information, recording, computerizing, printing manuals, preparing specific detailed maps, etc., including how all this information is being used as, for example, possible routes for transmission lines, etc.

Dr. Uterhart told of finding a Swainson's warbler nesting south of Carbondale in the Shawnee National Forest.

Several members reported the scarcity of the Carolina wrens and the bluebirds in their localities following the past severe winter. From the reports of other members, this scarcity seems to be widespread.

Slides of the Bachman warbler and its habitat in the 2500 acres of Frances Miriam Forest in South Carolina were next presented by Dr. Uterhart. Of special interest was the reference to the 200 nests collected for museums in the Pon swamps by Audubon and Reverend Bachman. Although the Forest Service had claimed no warblers present and proceeded with clear cutting, the playing of tapes of the Bachman Warbler in the area last April brought out a singing Bachman Warbler. A Bachman Warbler was also recorded in a cypress swamp near Charleston.

Mrs. Anne Stamm reported on the 1976 Nest Record Report and showed slides of bird nests, commenting on each.

The Field trips for Saturday and Sunday were announced. Dr. Herb Shadowen informed the members that unfortunately the favorite birding spot, especially for shore birds, has been destroyed. McElroy Lake has been channelized and all trees cut down. Chaney Lake has very little water, and only a few Killdeer and Blue-winged Teal have been seen there. Dr. Shadowen invited interested members to join his Audubon group for a bird trip postponed from the previous week due to rains. The leaders and their areas at Mammoth Cave included:—

7:45 a.m. Green River Ferry—Mrs. Gillenwater

7:45 a.m. Northern Trails—Howard Jones

8:45 a.m. Area around Lodge—Bert Powell

Saturday afternoon trips were left open to each one's desire.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m., followed by the Board of Directors meeting.

In spite of rain predictions, Saturday dawned cool and sunny. Although shore birds were noticeably absent, the songs of vireos and many warblers were abundant.

After the 6:30 p.m. dinner with about 75 members present, James Hancock of Madisonville and Howard Jones of Frankfort presented a Warbler Identification program of colored slides and variations of songs on tape, with breaks for discussion and comparisons.

At the general business meeting following, announcements were made concerning the change of dates for the Fall Meeting 1977 at Rough River Dam State Park, the new dates being a week earlier, September 23, 24, 25. The Spring Meeting 1978 has been temporarily set at Mammoth Cave National Park April 21, 22, 23. The site and the date for the Fall Meeting 1978 is still undecided.

Mrs. Clifford Johnson gave the Treasurer's report and also announced that there are 403 members in the KOS.

Professor Whitt announced that Dr. Burt Monroe, who could not be present, would be the chairman of the Nominating Committee for next year's list of candidates for office.

The members were reminded by Dr. Herb Shadowen to forward any articles for publication in *The Kentucky Warbler* to him, by Mrs. Stamm to pick up new Nesting Record Cards and by Andy Morton to send any and all information of rare and endangered nesting localities to him at the Division of Forestry, Fisheries and Wildlife Development at Norris, Tenn. 37828.

The tallied bird list for Saturday listed 119 species and, with Sunday's additional 8, brought the total for Spring 1977 to 127.

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sister Casimir Czurlis
Recording Secretary

ATTENDANCE AT THE SPRING MEETING, 1977

BOWLING GREEN: Dr. and Mrs. Charles S. Guthrie, Larry Holmes, George Johnson, Wayne Mason, Dr. and Mrs. H. E. Shadowen, Emily Wilson.

CADIZ: Mr. and Mrs. C. Wesley Kemper.

CUMBERLAND FALLS: Jeannie McConnell.

DANVILLE: Mr. and Mrs. Frank Heck.

FRANKFORT: Howard Jones, Sally Rice.

GLASGOW: Mrs. James E. Gillenwater.

LEXINGTON: Jarvis Hudson, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred M. Reece, Dr. and Mrs. Andrew Uterhart.

LOUISVILLE: Richard Cassell, Mr. and Mrs. Jackie Elmore, Cora Fraser, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford T. Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Wm B. Mathes, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Parker, Mr. and Mrs. Francis P. Shannon, Lawrence D. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Summerfield, Julia Wooldridge.

MACEO: Mr. and Mrs. Albert Powell.

MADISONVILLE: Thelma Gentry, James Hancock, Sue Place, Mr. and Mrs. N. M. Travis.

MURRAY: Joe Tom Erwin, Diane Gallamore, Dr. and Mrs. Hunter M. Hancock, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Head, Dr. Mike Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Parker, Dr. Clell Peterson, Paul Sturm.

OWENSBORO: Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Bowne, Sister Casimir, Mary Lydia Greenwell, Mr. and Mrs. Ramon Iles, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Wilson.

RICHMOND: Doug Henley, Marcia Trodahl, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Whitt.

BOONVILLE, INDIANA: Jon Gray, Willard Gray.

NORRIS, TENNESSEE: Andy Morton.

BIRDS OBSERVED AT THE SPRING MEETING, 1977

Green Heron, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, American Kestrel, Bobwhite, Turkey, American Coot, Killdeer, American Golden Plover, American Woodcock, Common Snipe, Solitary Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-billed Cuckoo, Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Chuck-will's-widow, Whip-poor-will, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Common Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Acadian Flycatcher, Eastern Wood Pewee, Horned Lark, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Bewick's Wren, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, American Robin, Wood Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Swainson's Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Palm Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Hooded Warbler, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Northern Oriole, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Summer Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Dickcissel, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

FIELD NOTES

BEHAVIORAL CHANGES IN STARLINGS AND CROWS

The European starling (*Sturnis vulgaris*) is a hole nesting species. Cavities in trees are favored nest sites. Cavities in buildings or man-made structures of a wide variety are also readily used. The birds show definite association with man, his cities and agricultural activities.

In 1963 a few starlings began nesting in crevices in limestone cliffs created by roadcuts for interstate 75 between Lexington and the Kentucky River. This new behavior spread rapidly, and within a few years rock crevices were a favored nesting site. During the nesting seasons of recent years, some of the highest nesting populations of starlings that I have seen are found at roadcuts along interstate highways in Kentucky. Competition for nest sites seems to intensify each year; the birds are now using small, low, rounded, rock out-croppings that would be readily accessible to man and predators.

Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchus*) are legendary for their wariness. Strictly birds of the countryside, they seldom venture into cities, and generally keep their distance from people. Recently, however, this behavior pattern has been changing.

In Lexington crows have always been associated with the university farm attached to the south side of the UK campus. As the city and suburbs grew, this farm became surrounded by residential areas. Although crows apparently did not nest there, they used the farm as a foraging area at all seasons. Occasionally, especially in the early morning, crows would perch in large trees in the residential area where I live just south of the farm.

During 1976 crows began using urban Lexington as a part of their regular foraging territory. Early in the morning they descend in small groups into the parking lots at the shopping centers. In September 1976, just before 8:00 AM, I saw a crow alight in a small parking lot that occupies a single lot across the street from the Chevy Chase Cinema in an urban business district of Lexington.

During the winter of 1976-1977 crows became bolder in their foraging behavior. Hundreds of crows fly into the city each morning from the northwest. Groups of them commonly stop to forage at various places in the south and west parts of the city. Recently they have been staying later. In early January one was foraging in my back yard at 11:00 AM. On January 15 at noon there were 20 crows foraging in the backyard of my home, a single suburban lot at 130 Jesselin Drive. Snow covered the ground and they did not seem to be finding much to eat.

Perhaps the exceptionally cold winter with the long spell of continuous snow cover in January has forced the bolder behavior. I suspect, however, that the behavior modification will continue; perhaps someday crows will be foraging on the sidewalks among people and pigeons. As smart and adaptable as the crow is, perhaps most surprising is that it hasn't happened sooner.—Wayne H. Davis, School of Biological Sciences, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky 40506.

WOOD STORK VISITS LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES

In July, 1976 Hematite Lake was being drained to enable planting of waterfowl foods and to construct a wildlife photography blind in the southwestern part of the lake.

It was soon apparent that several species of wading and shorebirds were responding favorably to the lowering of the lake's water. As the amount of the water decreased, a fresh mud flat was exposed and shallow fish-containing pools were formed. In addition to the increase in the number of common summer residents such as Green Herons (*Butorides virescens*), Hematite Lake was also visited by Great Blue Herons (*Ardea herodias*), Cattle Egrets (*Bubulcus ibis*) (two on July 24), and by an unexpected visitor, a Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*), as reported below.

Several observations of the bird were reported to me by various people from July 16 to July 30, 1976. I first saw the Wood Stork on July 16, flying east of Hematite Lake over Long Creek. It was also observed that same evening at Hematite Lake by a LBL practicum student. On July 24 it was feeding in a shallow pool on the south side of the lake, at which time I photographed the bird (color slide). Robert Duncan and H. Jenkins, LBL practicum students, observed it at the west end of the lake on July 27. Although I checked Hematite Lake on July 29, the Wood Stork was not there, and we received no reports after July 30. Apparently the bird remained the entire time in the Hematite Lake area as all observations were made there, with the exception of my first sighting.—EDWIN E. RAY, Rt. 2, Cadiz, Kentucky 42211.



Photograph of Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*) on July 27, 1976, by Robert Duncan, at Hematite Lake, Land Between the Lakes.

BILL DEFORMITY IN WORM-EATING WARBLER

An immature, male Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmitheros vermivorus*) was collected (U. L. No. 3980) on 9 June, 1976, 2 km south of the junction of highway 1111 and Smith's Branch in Breathitt County. The bird exhibited an unusual bill deformity in that the upper mandible angled to the right and was decurved. The lower mandible appeared normal and projected about 3 mm beyond the tip of the upper mandible giving it a somewhat crossed-bill look (Fig. 1).

Bill deformities are not uncommon in the literature. One can assume from the ones reported that there are many that do not survive much beyond the fledgling stage. This particular bird was being fed by its parents at the time of collection. It is rather doubtful that it would have been able to maintain its place as a viable adult in the population.

Research determining the forest avifauna of eastern Kentucky was supported by funds provided by the USDA Forest Service, Northeastern Forest Experiment Station, Research Work Unit NE-1605.

—Pierre N. Allaire, Department of Science and Mathematics, Lees Junior College, Jackson, KY 41339



Photograph of bill deformity of Worm-eating Warbler (*Helmintheros vermivorus*), collected June 9, 1976, by Pierre Allaire.