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## Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 53, no. 4)

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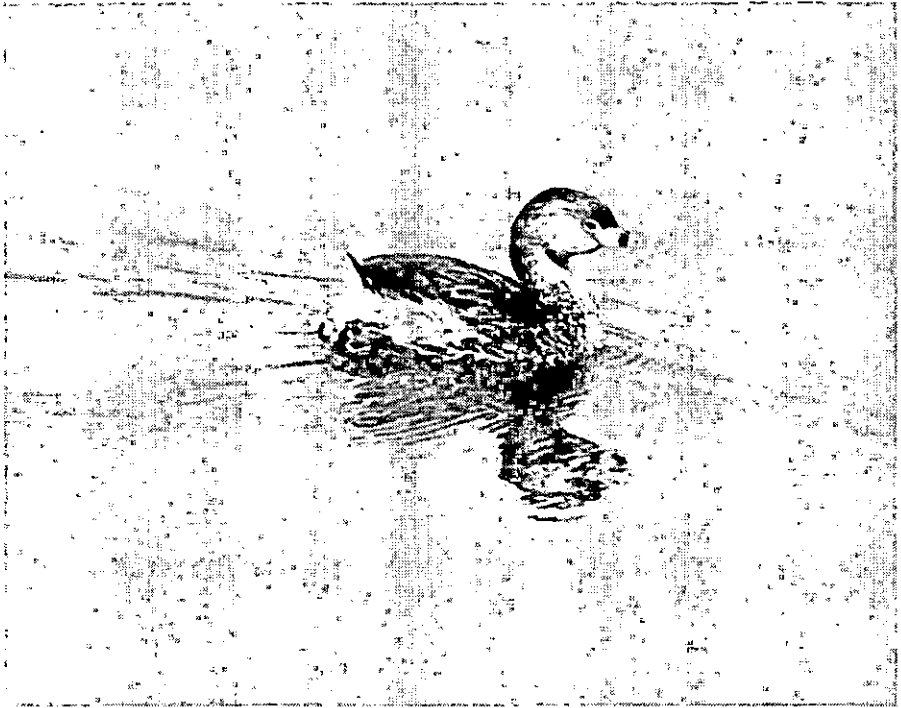
# The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

Vol. 53

November, 1977

No. 4



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## THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

President .....	A. L. Whitt, Jr., Richmond
Vice-President .....	Andrew Uterhart, Lexington
Corr. Sec.-Treasurer .....	Mrs. Clifford T. Johnson 1320 Barret Ave., Apt. 2, Louisville 40204
Recording Secretary .....	Sister Casimir Czurlis, Owensboro
Councillors:	
Charles Guthrie, Bowling Green .....	1975-1977
Mrs. Wendell Kingsolver, Carlisle .....	1975-1977
Mrs. Frank Heck, Danville .....	1976-1978
Michael Miller, Murray .....	1976-1978
Retiring President .....	Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Louisville
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

Burt L. Monroe, Jr.

### OUR COVER

The photograph of the Pied-billed Grebe was taken April 17, 1977 at the Ballard Game Management Area by K.O.S. member David Berry.

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
FIFTY-FOURTH ANNUAL FALL MEETING

September 23-25, 1977

The Kentucky Ornithological Society's annual Fall Meeting was held at Rough River Dam State Resort Park on September 23, 24, and 25, 1977.

The Friday evening session was opened at 7:30 p.m. at the Lodge with President A. L. Whitt presiding. Dr. Andrew Uterhart, Vice-president, introduced Pierre Allaire of Lees Junior College who gave a slide-illustrated lecture on the avian populations in forests adjacent to an active strip mine site. His three-year study has been conducted in the eastern portion of Breathitt County. The results of declining populations here compared to population decline in the Smith Branch of Robinson Forest of nearby West Virginia showed similar coincidental results. Ground nesters seemed most affected while some species, as the Hooded Warbler, showed no changes.

Mr. Allen Stickley, project leader of the Bowling Green Research Station of the Fish and Wildlife Service, discussed the blackbird problem. He revealed that, of the so-called blackbirds, Starlings were the real culprits, especially in causing winter loss at feed lots. At present, research is going on at Gainesville, Florida for a selective avicide which would kill Starlings on contact. The objection to the presently used PA14 spray is that it requires certain weather conditions to be effective. Further study has shown that damage by birds to mature corn in the fields has been exaggerated. Mr. Stickley requested the assistance of the K.O.S. members in locating roost areas when they are formed this fall and winter.

Dr. Monroe, who has a three-year research grant for the study of the organism, *Histoplasma capsulatum*, responsible for histoplasmosis, reported that outbreaks of the disease occurred only when the trees in the area of a roost had been cut down and the surface disturbed.

In explaining his topic, The Care and Feeding of the American Kestrel, Dr. Shadowen related his experiences in rearing a young kestrel. He encouraged the audience to record their observations in the field and submit them for publication.

A color film from the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary entitled *Birds of Prey of North America* brought out in detail the special identifying characteristics of the various owls, hawks, eagles, and vultures.

Professor Whitt announced that 8:00 a.m. field trips would be made to the Old Mill area, area across the dam, the area around the lodge and golf course, and the camping area. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 to be followed by a meeting of the Board of Directors.

Heavy fog, cloudy skies and cold wind Saturday morning did not daunt the raincoat-clad birders who met in the foyer of the lodge. A drizzly rain turned into a downpour before the trips ended at 10:45. Few birds had braved the dismal morning. A feeble sun after lunch enticed some members to venture out again with better luck.

A special meeting at 3:00 p.m. featured Jon Rickert of Elizabethtown, who has been gathering data for his book *A Guide to North American Bird Clubs*. Mr. Rickert reported that there are some 700 clubs in the United States and Canada. In his discussion he suggested several methods of strengthening the existing bird clubs to attract new members, encourage beginners and improve the interest of present members. This can be accomplished by newsletters, seminars, workshops, local reports, more field trips, trips to distant places, etc. He then explained the feasibility of a statewide Rare Bird Alert System whereby the sighting of an unusual bird could be relayed to the various chapters.

The special meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

One hundred ten members were present at the 6:30 dinner. Jon Rickert outlined the work of the Kentucky Nature Preserve Commission, a 1976 agency of five non-paid members set up by the Legislature. It will negotiate with owners who will continue to own the area but will allow it to be a nature preserve with legal protection and immunity from condemnation.

Professor Whitt called upon each new member present to identify self and hometown.

Howard Jones checked the list of birds observed during the day, 84 species being recorded with an almost complete lack of water and shore birds.

At the general meeting following the dinner, Dr. Uterhart introduced Dr. Fred Alsop of the University of Tennessee. Dr. Alsop, a field biologist and native Kentuckian, had photographed over 1,500 species of birds over the world. He shared his beautiful shots in a lengthy slide presentation. Dr. Uterhart called the members' attention to the exhibit of Dr. Alsop's enlarged photographs in the adjoining recreation room.

Mrs. Clifford Johnson gave the treasurer's and membership report. To date there are 459 members in the K.O.S., 59 of these being new members.

Mrs. Anne Stamm reported on the nesting record cards.

The Nominating Committee composed of chairman Dr. Burt Monroe, Mrs. Anne Stamm, and Dr. Shadowen presented the following list of candidates for office:

Dr. Andrew Uterhart — President  
Ramon Iles — Vice President  
Mrs. Howard Jones — Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer  
Sister Casimir Czurlis — Recording Secretary  
Pierre Allaire — Councillor  
Dr. Hunter Hancock — Councillor

There were no nominations from the floor, and the proposed slate of officers for 1978 was approved by all members. Mrs. Frank Heck and Dr. Michael Miller are the two councillors continuing in office.

The dates for next year's meetings were announced — the Spring Meeting at Mammoth Cave National Park will be on April 21, 22, and 23 and the Fall Meeting at Danville on September 29, 30, and October 1.

Dr. F. W. Stamm commended the outgoing officers for a job well done.

Sunday morning field trips were made to the farm of Dr. Herbert Clay Jr. An unusual finding because of the late date was a nesting Mourning Dove with two eggs.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sister Casimir Czurlis  
Recording Secretary

**BIRDS REPORTED ON FIELD TRIPS  
AT THE FALL MEETING,  
ROUGH RIVER DAM STATE RESORT PARK,  
SEPTEMBER 23, 24, AND 25, 1977**

Wood Duck, Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Osprey, American Kestrel, Bobwhite, Killdeer, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, 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, Eastern Phoebe, Empidonax sp., Eastern Wood Pewee, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Bewick's Wren, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, American Robin, Wood Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Palm Warbler, Ovenbird, Common Yellowthroat, Wilson's Warbler, American Redstart, House Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Northern Oriole, Common Grackle, Scarlet Tanager, Summer Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Dark-eyed Junco, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow. Total species: 91.

**ATTENDANCE OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS  
AT THE FALL MEETING, 1977**

**BOWLING GREEN:** Mr. and Mrs. Timothy Grandpre, Dr. and Mrs. Charles Guthrie, Mr. and Mrs. Jon Heisterberg, Dr. and Mrs. Herb Shadowen, Allen R. Stickle, Jr.

**CALIFORNIA:** Tom Rambo.

**DANVILLE:** Dr. and Mrs. Harry G. Caldwell, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Heck.

**ELIZABETHTOWN:** George Elliott, Jon E. Rickert.

**FRANKFORT:** Mr. and Mrs. Howard Jones, Max Medley.

**GEORGETOWN:** Glen Wells.

**JACKSON:** Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Allaire, Tom Smith.

**LEXINGTON:** Mrs. Ruth Davis, Mary Pat Flynn, Mr. and Mrs. Michael B. Flynn, Dr. and Mrs. Andrew Uterhart, Mr. and Mrs. James Williams.

**LOUISVILLE:** Mrs. Altha N. Cain, Richard Cassell, Dr. and Mrs. Herbert L. Clay, Bess Douthitt, Mrs. John L. Garst, Dr. Sue Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford T. Johnson, Dr. Lois Massie, Mr. and Mrs. William B. Mathes, Dr. and Mrs. B. L. Monroe, Jr., Mrs. Hulbert V. Noland, Mrs. Robert L. Pike, Evelyn J. Schneider, Mr. and Mrs. Francis P. Shannon, Lawrence D. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Summerfield, Chester Sundquist, Audrey Wright.

**MACEO:** Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Powell.

**MADISONVILLE:** Thelma Gentry, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Morgan.

**MURRAY:** Shirley Gallimore, Mr. and Mrs. Hunter Hancock, Mike Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Parker, Dr. Clell Peterson, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Sturm.

**OWENSBORO:** Frank Abrams, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bowne, Ted Bowne, Sister Casimir, Mary Lydia Greenwell, Mr. and Mrs. Ramon Iles, Emogene Lashbrook, Bruce Schroader, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Wilson.

**PADUCAH:** Mrs. Perry W. Arnold, Mr. and Mrs. Damon E. Caddell, Mrs. W. W. Foster.

**RICHMOND:** Mr. and Mrs. William Householder, Dr. and Mrs. Pete Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Whitt.

**SANDY HOOK:** Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Greene.

**SPRINGFIELD:** Mr. and Mrs. James D. Reed.

**VALLEY STATION:** Walter Ellison.

**WEST PADUCAH:** David Berry, Shirley Rhea.

WEST POINT: Mr. and Mrs. William F. Games, Sr.

BOONVILLE, IND.: Donald Andrews.

JEFFERSONVILLE, IND.: Dr. William Clay.

MADISON, IND.: Milton Lipsom, Alice Jane Smith.

CARUTHERSVILLE, MISSOURI: Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Leggett

**REPORT OF THE TREASURER  
OCTOBER 1, 1977**

**GENERAL FUND**

Bank Balance as shown by last report, October 1, 1976 ..... \$ 934.16

**Receipts**

Membership Dues .....	\$1,563.00	
Interest Income:		
Certificates (2) of Deposit (Endowment Fund) ....	136.20	
Colonial Federal Savings & Loan Assoc.		
Spring Meeting .....	436.60	
Fall Meeting .....	599.00	
Sales - Checklists, badges, Occurrences .....	74.30	2,809.10
		2,809.10
Total Receipts .....		\$3,743.26

**Disbursements**

Printing: Kentucky Warbler, 4 issues .....	\$1,232.63	
Bulk Mail & Mailing Permit .....	140.00	
Supplies: Envelopes, stamps, etc. ....	135.47	
Expenses - Fall Meeting .....	580.07	
Expenses - Spring Meeting .....	366.16	
Dues: Nature Conservancy .....	15.00	
Life Memberships (2) to Endowment Fund .....	100.00	
(Jefferson Federal Savings & Loan Assoc.)		
Miscellaneous .....	11.75	2,581.08
		2,581.08
Balance, First National Bank, Louisville, Ky. ....		1,162.18
		1,162.18
		\$3,743.26



**ENDOWMENT FUND**

Balance in Savings Account, Jefferson Federal Savings & Loan Assoc., Louisville, Ky. ....	\$1,266.87	
Certificates (2) Colonial Federal Savings and Loan Assoc. ....	2,000.00	
		<u>\$3,266.87</u>

**Receipts**

Interest Income:		
Certificate, Colonial Federal .....	136.20	
Savings Account, Jefferson Federal .....	73.58	
Two Life Memberships (Young & Dubke) .....	100.00	
		<u>309.78</u>
Total Receipts .....		<u>\$3,576.65</u>

**Disbursements**

Transfer of Interest on Certificates to		
General Fund .....	136.20	
Total Disbursements .....		<u>136.20</u>
Total .....		<u>\$3,440.45</u>
Balance in Fund, October 1, 1977:		
Savings Account, Jefferson Federal .....	1,440.45	
Certificates (2) Colonial Federal .....	2,000.00	
Total .....		<u>\$3,440.45</u>

**THE GORDON WILSON FUND FOR ORNITHOLOGY**

Balance in Savings Account, Greater Louisville Savings & Loan Assoc., October 1, 1976 .....	670.10	
Certificate, Colonial Federal Savings & Loan Assoc. ....	1,000.00	1,670.10
		<u>1,670.10</u>

**Receipts**

Interest on Savings Account .....	37.39	
Interest on Certificate .....	68.10	105.49
		<u>1,775.59</u>
Balance in Savings Account, Greater Louisville Savings & Loan Assoc. ....	775.59	
Certificate, Colonial Federal Savings & Loan Assoc. ....	1,000.00	
		<u>\$1,775.59</u>

**BALANCE SHEET**

October 1, 1977

**Assets:**

Cash in General Fund, First National Bank, Louisville .....	\$1,162.18
Savings Account, Jefferson Federal Savings & Loan Assoc.	1,440.45
Certificates (2) of Deposit, Endowment Fund, Colonial Federal Savings & Loan Assoc. ....	2,000.00
Savings Account, Gordon Wilson Fund for Ornithology, Greater Louisville Savings & Loan Assoc. ....	775.59
Certificate of Deposit, Gordon Wilson Fund for Ornithology, Colonial Federal Savings & Loan Assoc. ....	1,000.00
	<hr/>
Net Worth, October 1, 1977 .....	\$6,378.22

Rose Mary Rommel Johnson  
Treasurer

**REPORT OF THE AUDITOR**

I have examined the accounts of the Kentucky Ornithological Society for the year ending October 1, 1977 and find everything in good order. I therefore approve the treasurer's report submitted by Rose Mary Johnson. Mrs. Johnson is to be commended for her work as treasurer of the Society.  
— FREDERICK W. STAMM, Auditor.

## BOOK REVIEW

**WINTERING BALD EAGLE:** A compilation by Donald A. Spencer. National Agricultural Chemicals Association, Washington, D.C. 1976; pp. ix plus 170, 3 maps, some eagle photographs.

Anyone who has been concerned about the survival of the Bald Eagle will be encouraged by reading this publication. The compiler has gathered much information on the winter-migrant Bald Eagle in the 48 contiguous states from a wide variety of people. The information input stems from direct communication with season-long observers (National Wildlife Refuges of the U.S. Department of the Interior, State Waterfowl Management Areas, National Forests, National Parks, Reservoir Systems, etc.); Annual One-Day Inventories; Migration Records; and local intensive research studies of wintering populations.

As the introduction makes clear, the purpose of this compilation is "that you, the reader, will be stimulated to prepare a more in-depth account of the winter-migrant bald eagle in your region." The book covers much valuable information on the wintering locations, numbers of eagles, feeding behavior patterns, adaptation to habitat, communal roosts, etc.

The comments by resident managers of federal and state wildlife management areas and resident personnel of ranger districts of the National Forests are of particular interest and contain much valuable data. One is impressed by the number of organizations and individuals who have played a significant part in studying this majestic bird.

A map listing the possible number of birds which may be sighted on an optimum day in the mid-west and western states is included.

The compiler states that "to achieve the greatest appreciation of the bald eagle, the interested public must have the opportunity to observe this bird in the wild." Therefore, the winter season is for "eagle watching." This is understandable since resident nesting populations should not be disturbed during the breeding season. Dr. Spencer maintains that with "proper programming the wintering bald eagle can be relatively tolerant of an audience at a respectful distance."

Donald Spencer, a well-known authority on wildlife biology, has added his own readily understood commentaries derived from his wide experience not only with the Fish and Wildlife Service but as Chief Staff Officer of Animal Biology in the Pesticide Regulation Division of the Agricultural Research Service.

This reference work will not be found in book stores. However, anyone interested in reading this booklet will be glad to know it has been placed in "each of 3,189 university and junior college libraries . . ." Also, copies may be found in libraries of state Waterfowl Management Areas, National Parks, etc. Ornithologists and others studying the conservation of the Bald Eagle will find much valuable data in the book — ANNE L. STAMM, 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville, 40222.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT

The forms used for the Mid-winter Bird Count have been revised and will be mailed to participants during November. If you fail to receive a form or if you desire to initiate a count in your area, you are urged to contact the editor.

### NEST-RECORD CARDS

The 1977 nest-record cards are now due and should be mailed to Anne L. Stamm, 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville, Kentucky 40222. The original cards are sent to the Laboratory of Ornithology at Cornell University, and the copies are retained for the KOS files.

### BLACKBIRD INFORMATION SOUGHT

The United States Fish and Wildlife Service is seeking information on location of winter blackbird-starling roosts in Kentucky and Tennessee, according to Jon Heisterberg, Research Biologist at the Kentucky Research Station. Persons having information about roost locations should write to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 334 15th Street, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101 or call (502) 842-0341 in Bowling Green.

The information assembled will be used to determine the numbers, distribution and ecology of wintering blackbirds and starlings in the two-state area. An intensive survey effort using refined census techniques will be made to improve coverage of roosts in Kentucky and Tennessee. The survey will be conducted by Fish and Wildlife personnel over a 12-day period around mid-January, a time when roosts are most stable. Roosts normally begin forming in early November in Kentucky and Tennessee and disperse by the middle of March with the birds migrating northward for the nesting season.

Winter blackbird-starling roost surveys have been conducted periodically in Kentucky and Tennessee since 1960. A survey during the 1976-77 winter indicated an estimated roosting population of 20.3 million birds in Kentucky and 47.1 million birds in Tennessee. This compares with 1974-75 winter roost estimates of 31 million birds in Kentucky and 45.7 million birds in Tennessee. The substantial decrease in the 1976-77 Kentucky population is presumably a result of the severe winter weather pushing migrating birds further south. It will be interesting to see if Kentucky birds return to their former numbers.

**WANTED: DATA ON THE SEASONAL DISTRIBUTION  
OF NORTH AMERICAN GULLS**

We are developing a procedure whereby the U.S. Air Force can predict the potential seasonal hazard to aircraft represented by gulls in parts of North America. This knowledge will be used to schedule missions around high risk areas thereby reducing the likelihood of bird/aircraft collisions. Supplemental data on local gull populations are needed from all parts of the continent. The assistance of field workers is solicited to aid us in this task. Please submit reports of your gull observations to Dr. William E. Southern, Department of Biological Sciences, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115. Data will be gathered for a 2-year period beginning 1 September, 1977.

For each observation, please provide the following information: list of species present, approximate number of each species, precise locality description, dates observed, any information about causes for concentrations (e.g. sanitary landfill operation), and any details about the frequency of such concentrations in the respective areas. Information is sought from inland as well as coastal localities.

Thank you for your cooperation.

**NOTE FROM THE EDITOR**

The last four issues of *The Kentucky Warbler* contain 56 pages — the lowest number in the past ten years. Apparently fewer K.O.S. members are now doing research and writing field notes. If this trend continues the membership should seriously consider the possibility of reducing *The Kentucky Warbler* from four to two issues per year. The cost of publishing the last four issues was \$1,232.63. Members are urged to submit research reports and field notes which may be of interest to our readers and which contribute to the knowledge of Kentucky ornithology.