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The Kentucky Warbler

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VOL. 54

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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Burt L. Monroe, Jr.

OUR COVER

The photograph of the Barred Owl was taken by K.O.S. member David Berry of West Paducah as it perched by the roadside in late December.

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT

1977-1978

A total of 24 counts was reported this year — the highest number of counts ever made in Kentucky. We are pleased at the increase in birding activity in eastern Kentucky. There were 120 species recorded on the days on which counts were made. The reports from Willard and Black Mountain are not shown in the table because of space limitation but are described in full, including species and numbers. The editor expresses appreciation to all participants, particularly to those compilers who wrote additional notes concerning unusual occurrences.

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Trace and Mulberry Flat Roads; habitat as previously described). — Dec. 17; 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Cloudy, raining a.m., clearing before noon; Temp. 60-55°; wind SE, gusting to 10 m.p.h. Twelve observers in seven parties. Total party-hours 58 (25 on foot, 33 by car). Total party-miles 326 (24 on foot, 302 by car). Total 77 species, 1,506,039 individuals.

While waterfowl numbers are generally down, there is a fairly good variety of species. Honker Lake has been lowered until little more than a mud flat remains. This has produced interesting shorebirds and has kept the Least Sandpipers around at least until Christmas count time. The Woodcock is not uncommon in the area but has seldom appeared on this count. Red-headed Woodpeckers are abundant over western Kentucky. The count reflects the toll taken of Carolina Wrens and Bluebirds by last winter's cold and snow. Both American Kestrels and Loggerhead Shrikes seem to be increasing in number as winter birds. — David Berry, Wally Brines, Don Burchfield, Joe Erwin, Bob Head, Don and Gina Manning, Lawrence and LouAnn Philpot, Clell Peterson (compiler), Shirley Rhea, Bob Smith.

MARION (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Forrest Grove; habitat 20% river bottoms, 50% deciduous woodlands, 5% coniferus woods, 25% meadows). — Dec. 30; 6:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sky overcast; Temp. 33-40°; wind SW, 0-10 m.p.h., fog and light rain during a.m. Two observers in one party. Total party-hours 9 (5½ on foot, 3½ by car). Total party-miles 45 (5 on foot, 40 by car). Total 49 species, 2,256 individuals.

A large flock of several thousand blackbirds and Starlings was seen near the Cave-in-rock ferry on the count day. A Snowy Owl was observed during the count period. — C. L. Frazer (compiler), Jim Frazer.

HENDERSON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center junction of Airline Road and Duncan Lane; habitat deciduous forest 35%, pastures 10%, fence rows 15%, city 5%, open water 20%, cypress sloughs 15%). — Dec. 18; 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Clear; Temp. 40-64°; wind S, 0-8 m.p.h. Fourteen observers in six parties. Total party-hours 68 (45 on foot, 23 by car). Total party-miles 228 (48 on foot, 180 by car). Total 77 species, 18,548 individuals.

An adult and an immature Bald Eagle were seen during the count period. (A Swainson's Hawk and eight Black-capped Chickadees were also reported, with a good description of the hawk, but these are considered to be far from their normal range — editor). — King Benson, George Buckenhoffer, Ben Burnley, Harold Crafton, Ron Dodson (compiler), Julian Duffy, Bertha Hartung, Joyce Owens, Nancy Richardson, C. Smith, V. A. Smith, Edna Vogel, Ed Wallace, W. Wiley.

SORGHO (all points with a 15-mile diameter circle, center Sorgho community west of Owensboro; habitat as previously described). — Dec. 31; 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Overcast; temp. 29-36°; wind 0-5 m.p.h. Seven observers in two parties. Total party-hours 16 (15½ on foot, ½ by car). Total party-miles 30 (13 on foot, 33 by car). Total 43 species; 4,862 individuals.

There was a noticeable decrease in wrens and Bluebirds. Most species appeared to be low in numbers. — Joe Ford (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. Ray Iles, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Powell, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Wilson.

MACEO (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Maceo; habitat mostly as described previously). — Dec. 26; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. clear; temp. 10-22°; wind 3-15 m.p.h.; lakes partly frozen, river very rough. Six observers in three parties. Total party-hours 15 (12 on foot, 3 by car). Total party-miles 24 (6 on foot, 18 by car). Total 41 species; 800 individuals.

The river was choppy, and numerous barges discouraged any waterfowl that might have been present. — Mr. and Mrs. Ray Iles, A. L. Powell (compiler), Mrs. A. L. Powell, Mrs. Maudie Ray.

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; habitat deciduous woodlands and thickets 50%, lake shore 25%, open fields 25%). — Dec. 18; 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Clear to mostly cloudy in a.m., largely clearing in p.m. Temp. 46-52°. Five observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 16½ (14 on foot, 2½ by car). Total party-miles 48 (8 on foot, 40 by car). Total 50 species; 1,358 individuals.

The Merlin was recognized by its size, falcon appearance, blue-gray head and black wide bands on the tail. — Brodie Carter II, James W. Hancock (compiler), Allen Morgan, Mary Travis, Nathanael Travis.

PENNYRILE FOREST STATE PARK (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center park lodge; habitat as described previously). — Dec. 26; 6:40 a.m. to 4:40 p.m. Mostly clear; Temp. 16-32°; wind NW, 8-12 m.p.h. Two observers in one party. Total party-hours 10 (8 on foot, 2 by car). Total party-miles 19 (8 on foot, 11 by car). Total 35 species; 334 individuals.

Yellow-rumped Warblers are common again this winter; however, several common species were not recorded on the count day. — Peyton Adams, James W. Hancock (compiler).

BOWLING GREEN (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Three Springs, 6 miles south of Bowling Green; habitat as described previously). — Dec. 17; 6:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Cloudy and light rain during a.m., sunny to partly cloudy p.m. Temp. 38-53°; wind variable, 0-10 m.p.h. Six observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 23 (20 on foot, 3 by car). Total party-miles 134 (17 on foot, 117 by car). Total 60 species; 103,014 individuals.

There was one winter roost in the area containing approximately 200,000 birds. The temporary lakes south of Bowling Green contained water and a large number of waterfowl. — George Johnson, Mrs. Pat Kofoglis, Wayne Mason, 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; habitat as previously described). — Dec. 18; 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Clear to partly cloudy; Temp. 42-52°; wind variable 0-5 m.p.h. Seven observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 24½ (16½ on foot, 8 by car). Total party-miles 104 (16½ on foot, 87½ by car). Total 44 species; 1,361 individuals.

The numbers of both vulture species were unusually high, perhaps due to large deer population. Carolina Wrens were scarce, and there were fewer sparrows. The total number of birds seen was less than half the number recorded last year. — Mrs. James Gillenwater, John Heisterburg, George Johnson, Wayne Mason, H. E. Shadowen (compiler), Russell Starr, Allen Stickley.

GLASGOW (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Barren County courthouse; habitat woodlands, fields, streams, swamp, and lake). — Dec. 26; 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Partly cloudy to clear; Temp. 11-24°; wind W, 0-15 m.p.h. Seven observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 30 (18 on foot, 12 by car). Total party-miles 178 (27 on foot, 151 by car). Total species 71; 4,274 individuals.

This is probably the highest number of species recorded on a mid-winter bird count for this area. The Green Heron was spotted in an Osage orange thicket alongside South Fork Creek. The Savannah Sparrows were observed for quite some time feeding with Song Sparrows, and all field marks were noted. — Alida Akers, Martha Bryant, Mrs. James Gillenwater, George Johnson, Wayne Mason (compiler), Russell Starr, Frank Wade.

OTTER CREEK PARK (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center 2 miles southwest of park entrance; habitat coverage: deciduous woods 18%, brushy fields 35%, open fields 26%, hedgerows 5%, creeks, lakes and river 16%). — Dec. 21; 7:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; overcast; Temp. 26-27°; wind W, 12 m.p.h. Ohio river open, ponds and lakes frozen, snow flurries all day. Fourteen observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours 49 (37 on foot, 12 by car). Total party-miles 161 (33 on foot, 128 by car). Total species 58; 3,123 individuals.

The duck count was very poor although the low-lying farmlands adjacent to the Ohio River and Doe Lake were inundated. Both vultures and five species of hawks were observed, with a high count for the American Kestrel. The woodpecker count was good with some species above normal. Blue Jays were unusually common and in some instances were observed in flocks of 35 to 50 or more. Carolina Wrens were decidedly down from 33 in 1976 to only three. Fewer Robins were counted, perhaps due to the poor wild food crop. — Mary Bill Bauer, Barbara and Joseph Croft, Dennis Coskren, Walter Ellison, John Hoogerhide, Barry Howard, Wilbur Jackson, John Krull, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Lene Rauth, Father Terence Rhoades, Anne W. 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; habitat as described previously). — Dec. 26; 5:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Clear in a.m. cloudy in p.m.; Temp. 2-22°; wind WNW, 3-15 m.p.h. Eighteen observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 37 (15 on foot, 22 by car). Total party-miles 201 (17 on foot, 184 by car). Total species 66; 3,871 individuals. — Mary Bauer, Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Michael Brown, Chong Min and Lee Calvert, Virginia Calvert, Becky Consaul, Lysbeth Davis, Walter Ellison, David Hoskin, John Krull, Jerrold Olsen, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Margaret Pike, Martha Pike, Lene Rauth, Lawrence D. Smith (compiler).

LOUISVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center jct. Hwys. 42 and 22; habitat coverage as described 1972). — Dec. 18; 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky overcast; Temp. 36-51°; wind WSW, 5-20 m.p.h. fresh water open. Thirty-eight observers in 9 parties. Total party-hours 90 (59 on foot, 31 by car). Total party-miles 635 (49 on foot, 586 by car). Total species 92; 38,189 individuals.

Rarities recorded included a White-winged Scoter (present for a week, recorded by the Stamm party), a Gray Catbird (recorded by the Palmer-Ball party), a Vesper Sparrow (noted by Monroe and Quaife), a Lincoln's Sparrow (Parker party) and the Snow Buntings (reported by the Robertson party); a week prior to the count more than 200 Snow Buntings were present in the Louisville region. The effects of the severe winter of 1976-77 were noted in the low counts of Carolina Wrens and Eastern Bluebirds, which have been slow in recovering from the drastic declines. The three Rough-legged Hawks were reported from the southern Indiana portion of the count circle. — Mary Bauer, Donald Blackburn, Altha Cain, V. N. Calvert, Herbert and Kathryn Clay, Katherine Colburn, Becky Consaul, Barbara and Joseph Croft, Bess Douthitt, Walter Ellison, Diane and Jackie Elmore, Katie Fulkerson, Violet and Wilbur Jackson, Frank, John, and Mary Krull, Burt Monroe Jr., (compiler), Dot Muntan, Brainard Palmer-Ball Jr., Donald Parker, James Pasikowski, Martha Pike, Robert Quaife, Lene Rauth, Judy Robertson, Carl Schultze, Helga Schutte, Mabel Slack, L. D. Smith, Anne and Frederick Stamm, Al and Midge Susie, Rosita Watkins (Beckham Bird Club).

SHELBYVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Clay Village in the eastern party of Shelby County; habitat from elevation

of 640 to 1200 feet including cultivated fields, weed fields, cedar thickets, deciduous woods, four lake areas and two creeks). — Dec. 28; 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Clear; Temp. 5-25°; wind W, 10-15 m.p.h. Four observers in one party. Total party-hours 11 (4½ on foot, 6½ by car). Total party-miles 95 (5 on foot, 90 by car). Total species 47; 125,986 individuals.

There is a large concentration of birds of prey in the area of a blackbird roost in the eastern part of Shelby County. Sighted at the roost were: one Sharp-shinned Hawk, two Cooper's Hawk's, six Red-tailed Hawks, one Goshawk, and one Great-horned Owl. — W. H. Brown (compiler), Todd Brown, Kerry Magan, Mark Roberts.

DANVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Boyle County Courthouse; habitat: farmland 58%, woodland 20%, streamsidcs 16%, residential 5%, parks 1%). — Dec. 17; 7:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. Overcast; Temp. 41-53°; wind E, 0-45 m.p.h.; intermittent light rain. Twenty-seven observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours 53 (15 on foot, 38 by car). Total party-miles 439 (14 on foot, 425 by var). Total species 58; 11,996 individuals.

Figures for the following species seem unusually low; Killdeer, Horned Lark, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, American Robin, and Red-winged Blackbird. — W. C. Alcock, Ernest Baird, Al Byrd, Harry Caldwell, Margaret Caldwell, E. W. Cook, Lois and Robert Corcoran, Margaret and Scott Glore, Edna and Frank Heck (compiler), Moseill Pester, Jack Kellum, J. W. Kemper, F. W. and Naomi Loetscher, Cynthia Murphy, Margaret Myers, J. B. Nichols, Roger Rakestraw, Louise and Wilbur Robinson, Mary Roose, John and Stephen Stamper, Betty Ullrich.

FRANKFORT (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at junction of U.S. 127 and Ky. 1900; habitat as described in 1972). — Dec. 17; 6:00 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Overcast; 45-54°; wind SE, 0-9 m.p.h.; rain in afternoon. All water open. Twenty-nine observers in 15 parties. Total party-hours 78 (62 on foot, 16 by car). Total party-miles 280 (54 on foot, 226 by car). Total species 73; 9,533 individuals.

This count represents the most adequate coverage of the Frankfort count circle that we have had, which contributed to our highest totals ever for species and individuals. Duck species and numbers, however, are unusually low. Carolina Wrens are scarce. All wintering blackbird species were noted including a Brewer's Blackbird found by the Dennis Coskren party in a flock of Rusty Blackbirds. No blackbird roost exists at Frankfort, but the unusual numbers reported are likely associated with the large roost near Graefenburg. Winter finches were strongly represented. A lone Red Crossbill was identified by Max Medley, a zoologist from Michigan, who has extensive familiarity with the species. — E. G. Amburgey, Marvin Bing, William Blackburn, W. P. Caine, Jr., Karen, Laura and Rose Canon, Dennis Coskren, Peggy Derryberry, James Durell, Alexander and Virginia Gilchrist, Charles Grayson, Pat and Scott Hankla, Don Hartman, Howard Jones (compiler), Betty Maxson, Rae McEntyre, Max Medley, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Lewis and Mary Pfouts, Sally Rice, Stephen Rice, Rik Watson, Glen Wells, Jim Williams, Tim Williams.

HOUSE SPARROW	59	400	182	305	60	90	5	316	153	431	4	4	10145	10000	75	459	11	16	6	5	4	27
E. MEADOWLARK	8	36	26	38	*	46	5	51	10255	1	3	14	440	7500	522	1	5	6	6	1	7	
RED-W. BLACKBIRD	505	14	148	124		5	10020			11	5	2	566	2500	4	151	4	151	75	3		
RUSTY BLACKBIRD			64	30	53																	
BREWER'S BLACKBIRD			6																			
COMMON GRACKLE	762	50	1342	319	58	58	50010	153	431	4	4	4	10145	10000	75	459	11	16	*	5	4	
BR.-HEADED COWBIRD	106	13	236				10255	1	3	14	14	14	440	7500	522	1	5	6	6	1	7	
CARDINAL	89	100	82	93	81	47	14	124	22	165	128	205	723	32	287	295	177	36	145	99	17	
EVENING GROSBEEK		*	2		11	6	6	6	3	3	3	1	16	36	1	36	1	*	29	8		
PURPLE FINCH	4	*	3	2	4	6	92	54	42	52	138	39	17	20	133	199	70	34	9			
PINE SISKIN	20					2			2	2	19	15	38	150	2							
AMER. GOLDFINCH	100	2	142	29	38	22	7	45	35	91	163	64	464	41	26	179	229	118	154	6	1	
RED CROSSBILL																						
RUFOUS-S. TOWHEE	34	13	17	29	8	13	5	18	3	30	42	21	86	1	14	47	88	2	74	10	1	
SAVANNAH SPARROW	5									4												
VESPER SPARROW																						
DARK-EYED JUNCO	414	800	22	5	6	32	18	97	63	156	465	571	359	1	100	100	259	555	51	63	170	2
CHIPPING SPARROW																						
TREE SPARROW	28	*	6	2	2	2	4	4	58	13	92	92	92	2	77	2	77	1	1	6		
FIELD SPARROW	48	21	8	3	5	6	33	33	88	81	52	42	42	*	16	35	19	30	12	3	15	
WHITE-CR. SPARROW		30	23	46	47	3	23	10	25	13	79	79	79	5	59	15	14	14		1	30	
WHITE-TH. SPARROW	76	70	59	15	55	17	110	110	10	171	108	83	889	3	70	276	186	69	302	78	38	
FOX SPARROW	2	1	2		*	*			3	5	5	3	3	2	5	22	1	1	1	5		
LINCOLN'S SPARROW																						
SWAMP SPARROW	51		2		3	7	1	4	11	18	3	63	63		9	1	9	1			5	
SONG SPARROW	58	6	17	26	10	19	9	42	2	48	62	38	451	10	32	164	108	7	104	43	8	
LAPLAND LONGSPUR																						
SNOW BUNTING																						

DAY OF COUNT	D17	D30	D18	D31	D26	D18	D26	D17	D18	D26	D21	D26	D18	D28	D17	D17	D30	D29	D17	D10	D17	D17
SPECIES	77	49	77	43	42	50	35	60	44	71	58	66	92	47	58	73	49	48	49	39	33	41
INDIVIDUALS	1506039	2256	16548	4862	806	1358	434	103014	1361	4274	3123	3871	38189	125986	11896	9533	3793	1565	2006	945	201	880
OBSERVERS	12	2	14	7	6	5	2	6	7	7	14	18	38	4	27	29	15	10	11	18	3	5

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

KLEBER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at junction of U.S. 227 and State Hwy. 845 in Owen County; area and habitat as described in 1972). — Dec. 30; 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Overcast; 32-37°; wind SE, 0-9 m.p.h. Light snow a.m., light rain late p.m.; pond and lakes frozen, streams partly frozen. Fifteen observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 42 (23 on foot, 19 by car). Total party-miles 266 (22 on foot, 244 by car). Total species 49; 3,793 individuals.

Greatly expanded coverage brought about the highest counts ever for both species and individuals. Above average numbers were noted for Blue Jays, Purple Finches, Rufous-sided Towhees, and Dark-eyed Juncos. Carolina Wrens and Mockingbirds were less than usual. The most unexpected finds were the Gray Catbirds and the Chipping Sparrow. — Marvin Bing, and W. H. Brown, Peggy Derryberry, Pat and Scott Hankla, Howard Jones (compiler), Margaret LaFontaine, Jim, Rae and Ray McEntyre, Brainard Palmer-Ball Jr., Rosita Watkins, Jim Williams, Tim Williams.

CARLISLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center the Kingsolver cabin on Lake Carnico; habitat agricultural and woodland). — Dec. 29; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Clear to cloudy; Temp. 26-40°; wind light. Ten observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 16 (10 on foot, 6 by car). Total party-miles 60 (4 on foot, 56 by car). Total species 48; 1,565 individuals.

Two Great Blue Herons, one Pileated Woodpecker, and two Evening Grosbeaks were seen in the area but not on the count day. — Hannah Gabriel, Given Harper, Ann, Ginny, Rob, Jackie and Wendell Kingsolver (compiler), Liz Letton, Jack and Evelyn Morford.

JACKSON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Hilltop Church as described in 1975; habitat woodland 55%, open fields 15%, residential 10%, streamsidcs 10%, lake 10%). — Dec. 17; 5:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Clear in a.m., cloudy in p.m. Temp. 31-53°; wind WSW, 0-10 m.p.h. Eleven observers in 8 parties. Total party-hours 42 (27 on foot, 15 by car). Total party-miles 152 (12 on foot, 140 by car). Total species 49; 2,006 individuals.

Few Falconiformes were seen, and there was a surprising absence of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. There were unusually high numbers of Red-winged Blackbirds and American Goldfinches. — Karen Abner, Pierre Allaire, Clyde Landrum, Fred Landrum, Doug McLaren, Casey Morton, Jack Payne, Peggy Payne, Rome Sewell, Tom Smith, Mark VanWinkle.

PINE MOUNTAIN SETTLEMENT SCHOOL (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Putney, Ky. on Hwy. 119 in Harlan County; habitat mostly mountainous forest, some agricultural land, no sizable lakes). — Dec. 10; 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Overcast in a.m., sunny in p.m., Temp. 8-25°; wind NW, 0-5 m.p.h.; light snow on ground and snowing lightly in a.m. Eighteen observers in 12 parties. Total party-hours 54 (49½ on foot, 4½ by car). Total party-miles 58½ (24½ on foot, 34 by car). Total species 39; 945 individuals.

The snow and bitter cold discouraged some of our would-be birders and, apparently, some of the birds. Among the usual birds missing or in low numbers were the Brown Creeper, Brown Thrasher, Red-shouldered Hawk, Fox Sparrow, Carolina Wren, and Barred Owl. An injured Chipping Sparrow was observed by a feeder watcher in Baxter. — Mr. and Mrs. Rufus Bailey, Julius Begley, Joanne and Tom Blodgett, Elizabeth Bradshaw, Afton Garrison, Gary Larson, Gary Lewis, Lane and Preston Lewis, Marcia and Keller McDonald, Pam McKee, Steve McKee (compiler), Burton Rogers, Jack Whitfield, Mrs. E. L. Woolsey.

CUMBERLAND GAP NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at peak 2610 on Varilla, Ky.-Va. Quadrangle (USGS); habitat woodland 50%, residential 30%, openfield 15%, streamside 5%). — Dec. 17; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Overcast; Temp. 40-61°; wind variable, 3-15 m.p.h.; rain after 3:00 p.m. Three observers in one party. Total party-hours 9 (7 on foot, 2 by car). Total party-miles 51 (5 on foot, 46 by car). Total species 33; 201 individuals. — Don Beatty, Steve Beatty (compiler), Terry Thompson.

BURLINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center near Huey's Corner, as described in 1975). — Dec. 17; 6:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Cloudy; Temp. 38-51°; wind 5-15 m.p.h.; scattered rain during day. Five observers in two parties. Total party-hours 15 (12 on foot, 3 by car). Total party-miles 91 (9 on foot, 82 by car). Total species 41; 880 individuals.

Woodpeckers and sparrows were well represented, but Carolina Wrens and Bluebirds were scarce. — Mike Andrews, Ed Larson, Lee K. McNeely (compiler), Lynda McNeely, Robert Wahl.

WILLARD (all point within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Willard; habitat six miles of creek bottom, field and woodland areas). — Dec. 29; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Overcast most of day; Temp. 30-33°; wind 4-12 m.p.h. One observer in one party. Total party-hours 8 (all on foot). Total party-miles 6 (all on foot). Total species 17; 167 individuals.

Birds observed: Pileated Woodpecker 2, Red-bellied Woodpecker 4, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 2, Hairy Woodpecker 2, Downy Woodpecker 9, Blue Jay 8, Crow 4, Carolina Chickadee 10, Tufted Titmouse 11, White-breasted Nuthatch 3, Eastern Bluebird 6, Cardinal 24, Rufous-sided Towhee 11, Dark-eyed Junco 62, Field Sparrow 2, White-throated Sparrow 2, Song Sparrow 5. One American Kestrel and 2 Carolina Wrens were seen during the count period but not on the day of the count. — Erceel Kozee (compiler). Ed. note: The count in this location was begun Dec. 26, 1937 and has been continuous except for the winter of 1976-1977.

BLACK MOUNTAIN (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Black Mountain radar station 1½ miles from Hwy. 160; habitat mostly forest with some clearings; only elevations above 2800 feet were covered). — Dec. 12; 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Clear; Temp. 20-30°; wind WSW, 5-15 m.p.h. 1-4 inches of snow on ground. Three observers in one party. Total party-hours 5 (4 on foot, 1 by car). Total party-miles 28 (8 on foot, 20 by car). Total species 7; 30 individuals.

Although the weather was beautiful, we found very few birds. We saw many Ruffed Grouse tracks, but most of the day was spent in eerie silence. Birds observed: Ruffed Grouse 2, Downy Woodpecker 4, Common Crow 3, Carolina Chickadee 5, Tufted Titmouse 2, Winter Wren 1, Dark-eyed Junco 13. — Tom Blodgett, Afton Garrison, Steve McKee (compiler).

FIELD NOTES

SOME OBSERVATIONS FROM NORTHEASTERN KENTUCKY

I have observed some interesting birds near my home in northeastern Kentucky during the past year. The birds were seen in Elliott, Carter, and Rowan Counties, which are adjacent counties and in which are located both Cave Run and Grayson Lakes.

On March 9, 1977 a Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) was observed near Morehead in Rowan County.

On May 18, a Henslow's Sparrow (*Passerherbulus henslowii*) was seen near Grayson Lake in Elliott County.

On June 5, a singing Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*) was seen on Caney Creek in Elliott County. Two other singing males were heard. The habitat was a wooded ravine with cliffs and with Hemlock and Mountain Laurel.

On October 12, two female Red Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostra*) were observed extracting seeds from a Virginia Pine tree at my home.

On October 23 a male Snow Bunting (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) was seen at an old strip mine site in Elliott County.

On November 22 a Red-throated Loon (*Gavia stellata*) was observed at Bruin Point on Grayson Lake in Elliott County. The presence of eight Common Loons (*Gavia immer*) was a help in identification.

On December 7 a Rough-legged Hawk (*Buteo lagopus*) was seen near Grayson Lake in Carter County. — WILLIAM GREENE, JR., P.O. Box 227, Sandy Hook, Kentucky 41171.

A LATE SIGHTING OF A BLUE GROSBEAK

On June 19, 1977 in front of my home in northern Calloway Co. I observed and heard singing a male Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*) that I continued to record throughout the summer up until September 2. The bird fed regularly in a predominately clover-lespedeza field of two acres and frequently sang from electric lines nearby and from the tops of trees in an adjacent oak-hickory woodlot. Within two miles of the area of observation (along Ky. 464 between Almo Heights and Kirksey), Blue Grosbeaks have several times been recorded on breeding bird censuses, so

the bird's presence is neither unexpected nor unusual. What may make the observation noteworthy is that the September 2 record is well past the July 11 date given in Monroe's "Summary of Occurrence of Birds in Kentucky" as the latest recorded date of occurrence for this species in the state. — MICHAEL G. MILLER, Rt. 2, Box 114A, Murray, Kentucky 42071.

MISSISSIPPI KITE IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

At about 5:20 p.m. on the evening of August 23, 1977 I observed a Mississippi Kite (*Ictinia mississippiensis*) as it flew above the Mall shopping center in eastern Jefferson County, Kentucky.

The bird was just discernible to the unaided eye in a cloudy-bright sky. The view through 8X binoculars immediately revealed the characteristic shape and easy flight of a kite. The light head and black tail of the adult bird left no doubt as to species. This observer had previously studied Mississippi Kites on several occasions in western Kentucky and in Texas.

Though the Mississippi Kite occurs with some regularity in extreme western Kentucky, the last Jefferson County records prior to this sighting were May 3, 1953 (Stamm and Cole, 1954) and May 31, 1955 (Carpenter, 1955). — LAWRENCE D. SMITH, 7010 Bear Creek Dr., B-4, Louisville, Kentucky 40207.

TWO OBSERVATIONS IN THE LOUISVILLE REGION

On the morning of October 21, 1977 at 9:30 a.m. I was walking through a field of johnson grass to photograph a shrike that was in the area. Several sparrows were in the field. A sparrow of small size and weak flight flushed to the edge of the johnson grass. All that could be seen from this view was a rather dark and heavily streaked back. I made a light buzzing noise hoping to get the bird in better view, and it flushed to within ten feet on top of the johnson grass and in plain view. At this time the buffy fine-streaked breast, ochre face pattern and grey nape were noted. I took a series of photographs which verified the bird to be the inland race of the Sharp-tailed Sparrow (*Ammospiza caudacuta*).

On November 8, 1977 while at the Falls of the Ohio looking at the Herring Gulls and Ring-billed Gulls, I scanned the canal between the Falls and Shippingport Island. I observed Cormorants, Great Blue Herons, immature Black-crowned Night Herons, five species of ducks, a Horned Grebe, and an extremely large grebe swimming with the ducks. The grebe was nearly twice the size of the Horned Grebe and had a long neck, white from cheek and throat all the way down to the water's edge. By size and coloration the bird was identified as a Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*). — DONALD W. PARKER, 6907 Conn. Dr., Apt. 3, Louisville, Kentucky 40219.

OBSERVATIONS FROM SHELBY COUNTY

On December 5, 1977 in the late afternoon I was pinpointing a large blackbird-starling roost for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that has been located in the eastern portion of Shelby County for several years. While talking to the property owner, we observed 10-15 large raptors riding the air currents surrounding the roost. Five Red-tailed Hawks were seen in one tree alone.

However, the most interesting discovery was made on the afternoon of December 6 when a Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) in adult plumage was sighted in this same general vicinity. There was no doubt as to the identification, since the bird sat in a tree within 100 yards of the road where we could easily see the gray streaked breast and gray back with binoculars from our car. We even observed an unsuccessful attempt at catching a Cardinal near the edge of a grove of Redcedar.

Roosts have a large following of various species of hawks and owls because of the easy source of food.

On November 26, 1977 a flock of approximately 80 Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*) flying in a V formation in a southerly direction and honking loudly were observed just east of the high school in Shelby County.

An adult Goshawk was again observed on December 28, 1977 in the general area of the previous sighting on December 6 as he flew in the midst of several thousand blackbirds. Also sighted at the roost were the following birds of prey: 1 Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2 Cooper's Hawks, 6 Red-tailed Hawks and one Horned Owl. Another adult Goshawk was also sighted on January 2, 1978 0.2 miles west of Floyds Fork Creek on the north side of Ky. Hwy. 53 near Ballardsville in Oldham County. — W. H. BROWN, 527½ Main Street, Shelbyville, Kentucky 40065.

NEWS AND VIEWS

K.O.S. SPRING MEETING

Our spring meeting will be held at Mammoth Cave National Park on April 21, 22, and 23. Anyone having notes or a paper for the Friday evening program should contact the Program Chairman, Ramon Iles, 2223 St. James Court, Owensboro 42301.