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## Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 55, no. 1)

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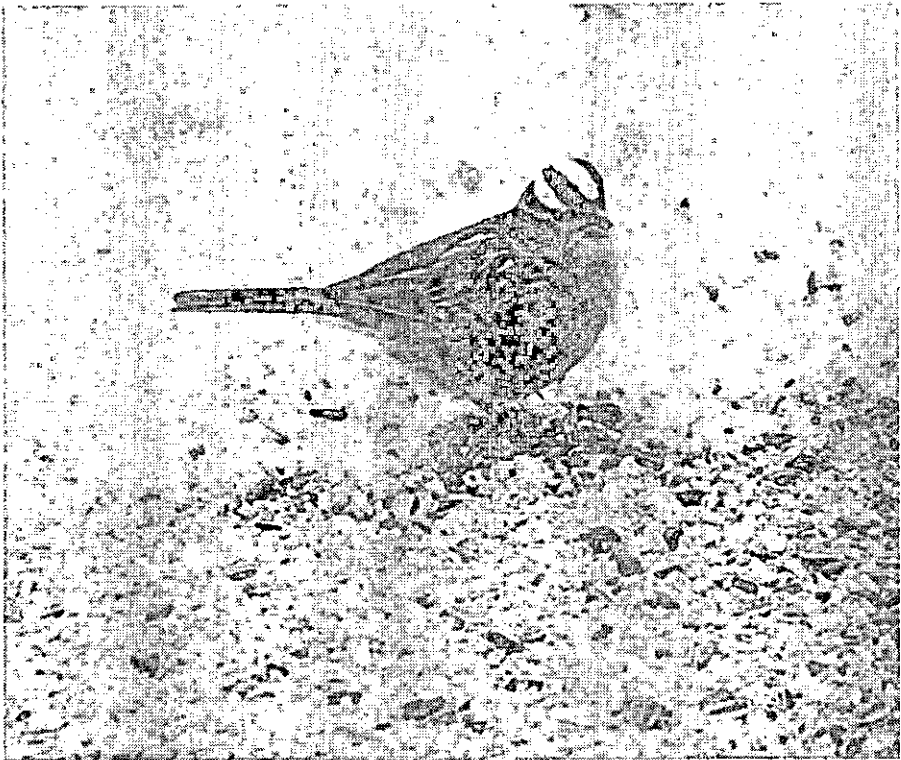
# The Kentucky Warbler

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## 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.

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Bowling Green 42101

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### OUR COVER

Our thanks again to K.O.S. member David Berry for the photograph of the White-crowned Sparrow.

## MID-WINTER BIRD-COUNT

1978-1979

This season 22 bird counts were reported with a total of 116 species of birds reported on the counts. Last year there were 24 counts and 120 species. Unexpected species included four Black-capped Chickadees, a House Wren, a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, two Pine Warblers and two House Finches. House Finches apparently are continuing to spread; they were reported on counts from the Land Between the Lakes and Lexington. A Double-crested Cormorant and a Least Sandpiper were reported during the count period. Certain species have obviously declined in numbers; last year the Carolina Wren declined so that only 151 were reported, but this year only 79 were reported; 248 Eastern Bluebirds were recorded last year, but only 161 were recorded on the counts this year.

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Trace and Mulberry Flat Roads; habitat lake-river shore 35%, open fields and edge 30%, deciduous woodland 15%, coniferous woodland 3%, cultivated fields 10%, residential 7%) — Dec. 16; 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Overcast, intermittent drizzle; Temp. 42-47°; wind W, 4-10 m.p.h. Nine observers in four parties. Total party-hours 32 (19 on foot, 12 by car). Total party-miles 190 (12 on foot, 178 by car). Total species 74; 1,004,003 individuals.

The weather was mild but heavily overcast and with intermittent rain. Visibility was poor and birds were not active. In the early morning Hematite Lake was covered with ducks which were difficult to identify. The count produced only four Bald Eagles, although an aerial survey on December 11 showed 16 Bald Eagles in the count area. One Bald Eagle reported both on Dec. 11 and on the count day was an almost all-white immature Bald Eagle. It was not an albino but merely a young bird with an unusual distribution of white in its pre-definitive moult. Despite the bad weather raptors turned up in good numbers and variety. Bonaparte Gulls were common, reported by three parties. The most depressing return was the failure to hear or see a single Carolina Wren and to observe only one Bluebird. The extremely low numbers of Meadowlarks and the substantial decrease in Dark-eyed Juncos may suggest cause for concern. — David Berry, Joe Tom Erwin, Judy Parker, Clell Peterson (compiler), Lawrence and LouAnn Philpot, Shirley Rhea, Paul Sturm, Anthony Tomlinson.

MARION (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Forest Grove; habitat 50% woodlands, 50% crop and bottom lands). — Dec. 31; 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Heavy clouds, light to heavy rain; Temp. 38-43°; wind NW, 0-5 m.p.h. Two observers in one party. Total party-hours 6 (1½ on foot, 4½ by car). Total party-miles 50 (5 on foot, 45 by car). Total species 43; 1,900 individuals. — C. L. Frazer (compiler), James A. Frazer.

HENDERSON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center junction of Airline Road and Duncan Lane; habitat as previously reported). — Dec. 17; 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Clear; Temp. 34-48°; Wind 5-8 m.p.h.

Eight observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 78 (30 on foot, 43 by car). Total party miles 83 (22 on foot, 54 by car, 7 by boat). Total species 67; 24,456 individuals.

The midwinter count in Henderson resulted in fewer species because of fewer people participating and because of the early rise in water levels, resulting in approximately half of our count area being under water. One observer traveled by boat. It was also apparent to all observers that the total individuals of most species were down considerably. It is not known whether the severe winters of the past two years affected populations to this extent or whether the flood waters changed population densities. — Ben Burnley, Ron Dodson (compiler), Julian Duffy, Ted Grannan, Jim Lodato, Mike McCenna, Steve Pitt, Nancy Richardson.

**SORGHO** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Joe Ford farm and Ed Wilson farm; habitat wooded creek bottoms, open pasture land, flowing stream margin of city of Owensboro). — Dec. 28; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Clear; Temp. 25-43°; wind 0-10 m.p.h. Seven observers in two parties. Total party-hours 14 (13 on foot, one by car). Total party-miles 47 (12 on foot, 35 by car). Total species 36; 5,950 individuals.

Back water prevented visiting some locations. There is a definite decline in bird and other animal populations. We found no Bluebirds, wrens and some other species that have been counted in the past. — Joe Ford (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. Ramon Iles, Mrs. Walter Radzelovage, Dr. Joe Rayburn, 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 four lakes at Madisonville; habitat mostly as described previously). — Dec. 31; 6:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Sky overcast with frequent drizzle and showers; Temp. 47-55°; wind S.E., 10-20 m.p.h. Six observers in two parties. Total party-hours 20 (18 on foot, two by car). Total party miles 48 (8 on foot, 40 by car). Total species 48; 2,465 individuals.

An immense acreage at Elk Creek has been cleared for farm land. Lake Pewee, with open water, had an abundance of waterfowl. Although it is now a refuge, some illegal hunting was noted. — James W. Hancock (compiler), Kenneth Hundley, Allen Morgan, Naomi Trather, Mary Travis, Nathanael Travis.

**PENNYRILE FOREST STATE PARK** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center park lodge; habitat wooded areas 60%, open fields 10%, farmland 10%, lake shore 20%). — Dec. 18; 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky heavily overcast; Temp. 38-42°; wind SSW, 10-20 m.p.h. Three observers in one party. Total party-hours 10½ (9 on foot, 1½ by car). Total party-miles 41 (9 on foot, 32 by car). Total species 27; 254 individuals.

Land birds were extremely inactive and hard to find, resulting in the poorest list made at Pennyriple in many years. — Peyton Adams, James W. Hancock (compiler), Phil Hyatt.

**BOWLING GREEN** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Three Springs, six miles south of Bowling Green; habitat deciduous forest 20%, fields and pastures 70%, towns and parks 10%). — Dec. 16; 6:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky overcast with intermittent drizzle most of the

morning, cloudy all afternoon; Temp. 43-48°; wind W, 10-15 m.p.h. Seven observers in three parties. Total party-hours 21 (16 on foot, 5 by car). Total party-miles 145 (8 on foot, 137 by car). Total species 51; 5,894 individuals.

Weather conditions were poor, but it is obvious that bird numbers are low this winter, even among common fringillids. The waterfowl were observed at the temporary lakes, which extended over approximately 60 acres at the time of the count. — Blaine Ferrell, George Johnson, Wayne and Martha Mason, H. E. Shadowen (compiler), Pat Shuster, Dennis Webb.

**MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Turnhole Bend; habitat as previously described). — Dec. 17; 6:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky clear; Temp. 32-46°; wind N, 4-10 m.p.h. Ten observers in four parties. Total party-hours 30 (24 on foot, 6 by car). Total party-miles 93 (16 on foot, 82 by car). Total species 46; 1,406 individuals.

Fewer predatory species were observed than in past years, and the numbers of Bluebirds, wrens, kinglets, and sparrows were low. — Blaine Ferrell, Mrs. James Gillenwater, Larry Holmes, George Johnson, Terry Jureka, Wayne Mason, Mark Morgan, H. E. Shadowen (compiler), Pat Shuster, Russell Starr.

**GLASGOW** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Barren County courthouse; habitat as previously described). — Jan. 1; 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Overcast and rain most of the day; Temp. 50-35° (decreased during the day); wind variable, 0-10 m.p.h. Eight observers in six parties. Total party-hours 32 (29 on foot, 3 by car). Total party-miles 103 (13 on foot, 90 by car). Total species 56; 2,507 individuals.

Despite a steady rain and temperatures which fell rapidly throughout the day, the count was quite productive. The waterfowl population was disappointing with only one species of duck. The cardinal and sparrow populations were unusually high, especially in the fields and thickets in and around the South Fork Creek area. The unusual species of the day was the Vesper Sparrow, four of which were flushed out along with feeding Savannah Sparrows and White-throated Sparrows. — Mrs. Francis Ellis, Mrs. James Gillenwater, Larry Holmes, Mrs. Francis Jones, Mrs. Martha Mason, Wayne Mason (compiler), Mrs. Robert Moore, Russell Starr.

**OTTER CREEK PARK** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center 2 miles southwest of park entrance; habitat brushy fields 36%, open fields 25%, woodland 19%, creeks, lakes and river 16%, hedgerows 4%). — Dec. 23; 6:00 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Sky clear to partly cloudy; water mostly open; Temp. 21-44°; wind SW 0-9 m.p.h. 14 observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 49 (34 on foot, 15 by car). Total party-miles 183 (31 on foot, 152 by car). Total species 57; 3,181 individuals.

The weather was ideal for the count but most observers felt that birds were difficult to find. The recent high water was probably responsible for the absence of waterfowl. The Northern Shoveler was on the small lake near Grahampton. We found an unusually large number of American Kestrel, 56, the highest number since the counts began in 1941. The effects of the severe winter in January and February 1978, were noted in the low count of the Eastern Bluebird. Blackbirds were scarce, but sparrows were







MID-WINTER

BIRD COUNT

1978-1979

	LAND BETWEEN LAKES	MARION	HENDERSON	SORGHO	MADISONVILLE	PENNYRILE STATE PARK	BOWLING GREEN	MAMMOTH CAVE NAT'L. PK.	GLASGOW	OTTER CREEK	BERNHEIM FOREST	LOUISVILLE	SHELBYVILLE	DANVILLE	FRANKFORT	KLEBER	LEXINGTON	NICHOLAS CO.	BURLINGTON	JACKSON	PINE MOUNTAIN	WILLARD
CAROLINA CHICKADEE	14	2	44	10	13	6	18	50	39	76	50	381	10	145	115	19	164	38	30	32	39	6
TUFTED TITMOUSE	4	2	62	18	8	2	13	35	36	51	47	180	1	49	56	8	73	24	29	35	31	
WHITE-BR. NUTHATCH	18		30		2	1	1	25	2	42	4	34	2	1	3		2	5	11	7	21	4
RED-BR. NUTHATCH			2					7	3	3	10	18	1	1			2	5	2	2		
BROWN CREEPER			1	1		1	4	4	5	7	11	30	2	12	29	2	29	1	4			
HOUSE WREN															1							
WINTER WREN			1					3	2	2	1	6			3		2			2	7	
BEWICK'S WREN		1																				
CAROLINA WREN		2	1		*		1	1	6	5	7	11		5	5	23				2	10	
MCKINGBIRD		6	8	4	15	7	21		9	8	14	81	1	18	2	30			2	3		
GRAY CATBIRD								1														
BROWN THRASHER		2	1		1		3		3	2		1									3	
AMERICAN ROBIN		4	12	1	16	59	30	48	10	267	228	143	36	13	60	1	582	15	71	14	675	7
HERMIT THRUSH								2	1	2											4	
EASTERN BLUEBIRD		1						3		8	31											6
BLUE-G. GNATCATCHER												1										
GOLDEN-CR. KINGLET							2	4	5	12	13	15	1	5	17	5	5			1		
RUBY-CR. KINGLET		8	2		1	1			1	10	8	6			3		6					
WATER PIPIT							20															
CEDAR WAXWING		42	11	6	14	5	104	8	21	176	51	1	2	2	48					19	159	
LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE		5	2	1	2	1	3	1	6	9	2	1	1		5							
STARLING		1000000	500	6000	1295	83	28	3500	3	149	122	1206	6958	327	1350	1100	28	1377	143	235	122	4
Y-RUMPED WARBLER		5			2	10	18	236	13	158	107	53	1	5	58	5	50	13		1		
PINE WARBLER								2														
PALM WARBLER								1							1							
HOUSE SPARROW	86	500	1200	219	107	8	331	95	190	238	591	20	450	79	5	333	51	54	13	24		

EASTERN MEADOWLARK .....	5	5	12	14	3	12	44	13	25	4	28	24	62	1	*	7								
RED-W. BLACKBIRD .....	89	40	2002	13	28	45	1	12	36	10	759	5	20	50	35	10								
RUSTY BLACKBIRD .....						40		8	720	34	10		3											
COMMON GRACKLE .....	172	14	1500	1000		203	321	17	388	107	7	59	7		*	20								
BR.-HEADED COWBIRD .....	72	6	6	2		588	60	2	931	7	180				*									
CARDINAL .....	41	300	134	77	77	15	83	19	243	131	170	839	30	189	227	65	404	19	85	62	85	9		
EVENING GROSBEAK .....									*														20	
PURPLE FINCH .....	5	8			1	7	336	5	45	15	39	1	2	57	9	38		16				36		
HOUSE FINCH .....	1															1								
PINE SISKIN .....	2										5		12	5	10									
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH .....	33	2	25	19	9	1	2	14	14	199	40	273	8	63	104	19	106	55	31	22	28	*		
RUFOUS-S. TOWHEE .....	27	8	50	8	12	1	23	1	14	50	38	105	4	14	13	35	21	4	16	19	8			
SAVANNAH SPARROW .....						1		56	6															
VESPER SPARROW .....							4				3										1			
DARK-EYED JUNCO .....	121	400	70	19	97	66	21	97	115	400	207	272	7	58	131	33	239	14	114	74	115	9		
TREE SPARROW .....			10		1					6	2	3		2	1									
CHIPPING SPARROW .....																					1			
FIELD SPARROW .....	60	14	3	25		27	1	99	58	85	98	7	20	84	38	5	13	45	4					
WHITE-CR. SPARROW .....	2	35	6	38	4	15		49	61	12	57	3	64	36	81	2	1							
WHITE-THR. SPARROW .....	71	30	75	19	11	3	66	36	401	246	161	950	3	35	169	104	228	29	10	108	96	4		
FOX SPARROW .....		5							4			6			2	2							6	
LINCOLN'S SPARROW .....												1												
SWAMP SPARROW .....	8	8	8	20	2	24	1	214	52	12	76		11		19			2	60					
SONG SPARROW .....	56	6	25	20	4	3	11	4	253	92	66	359	22	24	108	7	102	2	27				20	1
LAPLAND LONGSPUR .....																								

DAY OF COUNT .....	D16	D31	D17	D28	D31	D18	D16	D17	J1	D23	D31	D17	D29	D16	D16	D31	D30	D28	D30	D16	J2	D28
SPECIES .....	74	43	66	36	48	27	51	46	56	57	65	87	44	62	59	30	75	37	39	40	35	16
INDIVIDUALS .....	1400004	1900	24456	5950	2465	254	5894	1406	2507	3181	4252	18983	917	14012	3697	487	6347	659	1142	946	1522	88
OBSERVERS .....	9	2	8	7	6	3	7	10	8	14	13	36	2	33	23	2	37	7	6	11	10	1

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

fairly well represented. — Alan Barron, Barbara and Joseph Croft, Walter Ellison, Howard Hopkin, Wilbur Jackson, Frank and John Krull, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Martha Pike, Lene Rauth, Helga Shutte, Anne L. Stamm (compiler), Frederick W. Stamm.

**BERNHEIM FOREST** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Forest lookout tower 2.7 miles southeast of forest entrance; habitat as described previously). — Dec. 31; 6:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky overcast with intermittent light to moderate rain all day; Temp. 48-61°; wind 10-30 m.p.h. Thirteen observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 37 (15 on foot, 22 by car). Total party-miles 252 (11 on foot, 241 by car). Total species 65; 4,252 individuals.

The Short-eared Owl was seen by Lawrence Smith and Susie Pasikowski near Boston, Ky. Pine Warblers were well seen by two parties in the many pine trees of the forest. Pine Warblers are sometimes seen in winter at Bernheim, but this is the first time for the count. They nest in Bernheim in the summer months. Numbers of Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, and White-breasted Nuthatch were lower than in previous years, and very few blackbirds were seen. — Alan Barron, Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Lysbeth Davis, Diane Elmore, Jackie B. Elmore, Sr. (compiler), Doug Knopf, Frank Krull, John Krull, Martha Pike, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Susie Pasikowski, Lawrence Smith.

**LOUISVILLE** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center jct. Hwys. 42 and 22; area and habitat as described 1972). — Dec. 17; 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky partly cloudy; Temp 29-46°; wind WSW, 0-20 m.p.h. Floodwaters just receded. Thirty-six observers in 13 parties. Total party-hours 123 (59 on foot, 64 by car). Total party-miles 700 (73 on foot, 627 by car). Total species 87; 18,963 individuals.

Rarities included a Merlin (Robertson party), Vesper Sparrows (Krull party), a Lincoln's Sparrow (Robertson party), and the first Christmas Count report of a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. The latter was studied at leisure at close range by Smith, Schulz, and Blackburn. The worst flood locally peaked on the Ohio River on Wednesday; by Sunday waters had receded but access to the river was limited. Waterfowl had abandoned their usual feeding grounds and were difficult to find. Declines in total numbers (about half the previous year) were due to lower numbers of starlings and blackbirds; again, there appears to be no major roost in the Louisville area. Carolina Wrens continue to be down, and for the first time Bluebirds were not recorded (although the species was seen the previous Sunday). — Pierre Allaire, Jane and Pat Bell, Donald Blackburn, Altha Cain, Lee Calvert, Katherine Colburn, Muriel Doolittle, Beth Douthitt, Walter Ellison, Diane and Jackie Elmore, Deke Hook, Violet and Wilbur Jackson, Frank Krull, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Frank Krull, Sr., John Krull, Barbara Lensing, Burt Monroe, Jr. (compiler), Dot Muntan, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Mary and Ted Pettit, Mrs. Robert Pile, Robert Quaife, Lene Rauth, Judy Robertson, V. C. Rommel, Carl Schulz, Mabel Slack, L. D. Smith, Anne and F. W. Stamm, Midge Susie (Beckham Bird Club).

**SHELBYVILLE** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center one mile south of U.S. 60 and Guist Creek Lake on Ky. 714; habitat farmland, forests, and suburban). — Dec. 29; 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky overcast

to clear; Temp. 25-50°; wind E, 15 m.p.h. Two observers in one party. Total party-hours 11 (5 on foot, 6 by car). Total party-miles 109 (6 on foot, 103 by car). Total species 44; 917 individuals. — W. H. Brown (compiler), Todd Brown.

**DANVILLE** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Boyle County courthouse; habitat farmland 55%, woodland 23%, streamside 20%, residential 1%, parks 1%). — Dec. 16; 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky partly cloudy with rain in the afternoon; Temp. 34-44°; wind SE, 0-30 m.p.h. Thirty-three observers in 8 parties. Total party hours 58½ (22 on foot, 33½ by car). Total party-miles 273 (22 on foot, 251 by car). Total species 62; 14,012 individuals. — W. C. Alcock, E. Baird, Ernest Bronkema, Harry Caldwell, Molly Caldwell (compiler), Lois Corcoran, Walter, Molly, and Janie Donaldson, Neil and Virginia Eklund, Mrs. Scott Glore, John Gower, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Heck, D. Bell and West Hill, Jack Kellam, Pat and Jeff Loane, Dr. and Mrs. Fred Loetcher, Mike Marsh, Paul Morgan, Cynthia and Peter Murphy, J. B. Nichols, Mr. and Mrs. Robinson, Roger Rakestraw, Steve Stamper, Betty Ullrich.

**FRANKFORT** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at junction of U.S. 127 and Ky. 1900; area and habitat coverage as described in 1972). — Dec. 16; 6:15 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky overcast with steady rain in afternoon; all water open; Temp. 35-47°; wind SSW, 3-12 m.p.h. Twenty-three observers in 12 parties. Total party-hours 70 (57 on foot, 13 by car). Total party-miles 293 (56 on foot, 237 by car). Total species 59; 3,697 individuals.

Unexpected finds included the House Wren and the Least Sandpiper recorded during the count period. Declines due to the recent severe winters continue to be seen for Bobwhite, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, and Eastern Bluebird. The Field Sparrow continues to increase in numbers in wintering populations in the Frankfort area. — E. G. Amburgey, William Blackburn, Karen, Laura, and Rose Canon, Dennis and Faith Coskren, Peggy Derryberry, James Durell, Alexander and Virginia Gilchrist, Bill and Charles Grayson, Pat and Scott Hankla, Howard Jones (compiler), Rae McEntyre, Lewis and Mary Pfouts, Carolyn Short, Glen Wells, Jim Williams, Tim Williams.

**KLEBER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at junction of U.S. 227 and Ky. 845 in Owen County; area and habitat as described in 1972). — Dec. 31; 8:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Sky overcast with fog, steady rain all day with streams near flooding; Temp. 47-59°; wind S, 5-17 m.p.h. Two observers in one party. Total party-hours 8¼ (5 on foot, 3¼ by car). Total party-miles 85 (6 on foot, 79 by car). Total species 30; 487 individuals.

The terrible weather and unavailability of observers hampered coverage of the count area. The absence of Carolina Wrens and Mockingbirds can be attributed to recent severe winters. Absence of American Robins and Cedar Waxwings is probably due to a poor crop of Red Cedar cones. White-throated Sparrows and Rufous-sided Towhees were concentrated near a food plot. — Peggy Derryberry, Howard Jones (compiler).

**LEXINGTON** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center

East Hickman on Tates Creek Pike; pasture 25%, lakes 20%, scrub/fence-row 20%, woodland 14%, cultivated fields 8%, river edge 8%, residential 5%). — Dec. 30; 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky overcast with intermittent light rain; Temp. 37-47°; wind SSE, 10-20 m.p.h. Thirty-seven observers in 14 parties. Total party-hours 183.7 (97.5 on foot, 86.2 by car). Total party-miles 606.7 (40.5 on foot, 566.2 by car). Total species 75; 6,347 individuals. — Ellen Allen, Roger Barbour, Robert Barker, Ann, Bonnie and Eugene Bradley, Mary Burns, Lowell Bush, Karen and Rose Canon, Ruth Davis, Helen Edmonds, Carl Ernst, Lyda Fech, Jean and Mike Flynn, Rory Flynn, Given Harper, Anna Helton, Maude Hurt, Irma Johnson, Betty Maxson, Catherine Maxson, Bernice McClure, Robert Morris, Lucy Phenix, Alfred and Virginia Reece, Jerry Reece, Barbara and Don Ruff, Richard Schwein, Rose Shrimpton, Andy and Marion Uterhart, Sally Wasielewski, Jim Williams, Rich Wohschlaeger, Jim Wood, Ellen Allen (compiler).

NICHOLAS COUNTY (CARNICO) (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Kingsolver cabin, Lake Carnico; habitat lake, hardwoods, open fields). — Dec. 28; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky clear; Temp. 12-34°; wind 3-10 m.p.h. Seven observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 14 (7 on foot, 7 by car). Total party-miles 50 (5 on foot, 45 by car). Total party-miles 50 (5 on foot, 45 by car). Total species 37; 659 individuals. — Mrs. John Gabriel, Mr. Given Harper, Dr. and Mrs. W. R. Kingsolver (compilers), Mrs. Harold Lotton, Dr. and Mrs. Jack Morford.

BURLINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center near Huey's Corner as described in 1975; 60% woodland, 20% open field, 5% residential, 15% streams and river). — Dec. 30; 5:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky cloudy with intermittent rain during the day; Temp. 40-47°; wind 0-7 m.p.h. Six observers in three parties. Total party-hours 30.5 (20.5 on foot, 10 by car). Total party-miles 202.2 (5.2 on foot, 197 by car). Total species 39; 1,142 individuals.

Blackbird species were absent on the count day, and waterfowl numbers were low. The Vesper Sparrow was seen by Ed Larson near the Greater Cincinnati Airport. Two small flocks of Eastern Bluebirds were encouraging. — Gerri Kennedy, Laura Kob, Linda Kob, Ed Larson, Lee McNeely (compiler), Lynda McNeely.

JACKSON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Hilltop Church as described in 1975 and habitat as described). — Dec. 16; 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky cloudy with rain in the afternoon; Temp. 30-52°; wind SSW, 5-10 m.p.h. Eleven observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours 30 (18 on foot, 12 by car). Total party-miles 83 (14.5 on foot, 68.5 by car). Total species 40; 946 individuals.

Numbers of Downy Woodpeckers, White-breasted Nuthatches, and Carolina Wrens were quite low. The Chipping Sparrow was unexpected. — Carrol Fackler, Bill Kunstler, Fred Landrum, Doug McLaren, Casey Morton, Jack and Peggy Payne, Tom Smith (compiler), Mark and Oda VanWinkle.

PINE MOUNTAIN SETTLEMENT SCHOOL (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center near Putney on Hwy. 119 in Harlan County; habitat mostly mountainous forest, some agricultural land, and small

lakes). — Jan. 2; 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky overcast with heavy snow most of day; Temp. 27-12° (dropped during day); wind NW, 1-15 m.p.h. Ten observers in 8 parties. Total party-hours 20 (16½ on foot, 3½ by car). Total party-miles 32½ (6½ on foot, 26 by car). Total species 35; 1,522 individuals.

The weather conditions were very poor with snow, wind, and falling temperatures. — Mrs. Rufous Bailey, Julius Begley, Afton Garrison, Pam McKee, Steven McKee (compiler), Anne Moretz, Francis Owens, Burton Rogers, Jack Whitfield, Mrs. E. L. Woolsey.

WILLARD (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Willard; habitat creek bottom, field and woodland areas). — Dec. 28; 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky sunny; Temp. 25-35°. One observer. Total party-hours eight (on foot). Total party-miles eight (on foot). Total species 16; 88 individuals. — Ercel Kozee (compiler).

(Editor's note: In his report Mr. Kozee stated that he "walked about eight miles over the same route I've walked since Christmas, 1937. I missed one count (two years ago). The 1978 count was number 40. This count will probably be my last. The walk through field and woodland and hills is getting to be too much for my age and strength." We thank Mr. Kozee for his faithful participation in the Mid-winter Bird Counts for so many years and for the information he has provided concerning the birds in his region of the state. — H. E. SHADOWEN

## THE FALL MIGRATION SEASON, 1978

ANNE L. STAMM

The weather during the fall migration, August 1 through November 30, 1978, was unusually warm, with temperatures well above normal, except for the month of October, which averaged below normal. In Louisville it was the warmest September since 1959. Western counties, especially Calloway, experienced the "worst drought in more than 25 years." These drought conditions contrasted sharply with those in Jefferson County, where the rainfall was higher than normal during the month of August. The high water at the Falls of the Ohio covered the rock ledge for much of the time, limiting shorebird habitat. The rainfall recorded in September and October was below normal while in November it was approximately two inches above normal.

A good movement of Common Loons was noticeable in mid-November throughout the state. Ducks arrived later than usual, but geese were on schedule, especially in western Kentucky. The hawk migration was, as usual, most evident in the southeastern section of the state. Reports revealed a continued scarcity of Cooper's, Red-shouldered and Marsh Hawks. A few Merlin were reported.

The warbler migration was considered poor by most observers; there were few waves of any consequence. Perhaps because of the mild fall some warblers remained later than usual. Few winter finches were reported and received little comment from observers. In general it was felt that the migration of passerines left much to be desired.

A few unusual species were reported, including a Reddish Egret. A

few of the other rarities were: Cattle Egret, Wood Stork, White Ibis, Surf Scoter, Black Scoter, Sandhill Crane and Red Phalarope.

*Loons through Ibises.* — Common Loons were widely scattered: one bird at Barren River Reservoir on September 9 was unusually early (GJ); another at Falls of the Ohio on October 30 (LS); eight at Grayson Lake in eastern Kentucky, November 14 (WCG); and 12 at Lake Pewee on November 20 (JH). However, the big movement south came on November 17 when 36 were recorded at Lake Carnico (VK, WK); 151, by actual count, at Lexington Reservoir #4 (DC); and hundreds along the Ohio River from Louisville to Prospect (m.o.b.), with estimates of 500 birds (BM). Small flocks of Horned Grebe ranging from 15 and up to 50 were observed along the Ohio River, east of Louisville, November 17 (BM, ALS, BPB, FS), and the earliest arrival was that of a single bird at McNeely Lake on October 6 (DP). No sizeable flocks of Pied-billed Grebe were reported, with the exception of the 91 and 79 at Lake Pewee, November 25 and 30, respectively (JH). The only reports of Double-crested Cormorants were from Louisville and ranged from four birds on September 29 (JEL) to five birds on November 8 (ALS, FS). Great Blue Heron were reported from most areas in the state and maximum numbers were: 15 at Falls of the Ohio on August 13 (ALS, m.o.b.); 27 there on August 16 (JEL) and the 19th (LaS, m.o.b.); and 24 at Kentucky Lake, October 12 (JEr). Little Blue Heron were reported at islands in Kentucky Lake, August 3, with 14 immatures there on October 1 (JEr); small numbers of immatures and an adult at Falls of the Ohio, from early August to mid-August (m.o.b.), and last observed there on August 25 (JEL). An immature Cattle Egret in Bourbon County, near Ruddles Mills, west of Millersburg, November 7, was of special interest (DC, RM); another at Cave Run Fish Hatchery, November 8, is our most eastern record (WCG). A very unusual rarity — the Reddish Egret — was noted at the Falls of the Ohio on September 1 (BPB), and later observed by others (BM, LR, ALS, FS). High counts of Black-crowned Night Heron were: 31 at Cadiz (IK); 67 at Falls of the Ohio, August 13 (ALS, m.o.b.) and 102 there on August 19 (LaS, m.o.b.). A Least Bittern at McNeely Lake on October 6 was rather late (DP). One of the highlights of the season was the sighting of a Wood Stork in Nelson County, September 9, by Robert K. Brown; the species remained for several weeks and was observed by many birders. Another exciting record was that of three immature White Ibis, three miles from Crestwood on August 9 (RIr, SI).

*Waterfowl.* — First flights of migrating Geese were recorded on September 23, but the following day "thousands passed over the Kentucky Lake area" (JEr). Ducks were late in arriving, but a good movement of waterfowl was recorded on the Ohio River at Louisville November 17; rafts of scaup, bufflehead and mergansers were counted (BPB, ALS, FS, BM). An interesting group of waterbirds was also found on Lexington Reservoir #4 on November 17 and included 250 Lesser Scaup, 77 Ruddy Ducks, 20 Redheads, 15 Bufflehead, and a few American Wigeon and Gadwall (DC). One thousand Ring-necked Ducks were present on November 6 and 20, at Lake Pewee, Madisonville (JH). An estimated 500 Wood Ducks came to a pond, near Harrods Creek, October 20 (FK, JK). Although only a few Canvasback Ducks were recorded at Louisville, 57

were counted at Lake Pewee on November 25 (JH). Two Surf Scoters were present in the Ohio River, above the wall of McAlpine Dam, October 26 (LR), and later in the day observed by others (JEL, ALS, FS); and two on November 17, along the Ohio River, upstream from Louisville (BPB, CR). One Black Scoter was recorded on the Ohio River at Louisville, October 20 (BPB, JEL); and one on November 13, above McAlpine Dam (ALS, FS).

*Raptors.* — Fair numbers of Turkey Vultures were reported in the Louisville area and in western Kentucky. A roost of Turkey and Black Vultures numbering about 100 was found in western Kentucky (JEr). A few Cooper's Hawks were recorded: two pursuing Blue Jays, near Hamlin, September 28 (JEr); one at Danville, September 30 (KOS); one at Louisville, November 11 (VR); two at Bernheim Forest on November 6 (FSh, BS, DD); and seven in migration in Bell County, September 18-20 (ALS, FS). Red-shouldered Hawks were recorded from only four counties. Approximately 50 Broad-winged Hawks were observed at Lexington on September 23 (WB) while 687 were seen in migration in Bell County, September 18-20 (ALS, FS). Rough-legged Hawks were mentioned briefly: one in Cherokee Park on October 12 was early (DP); one in northeast Louisville, November 18 (BBC). Bald Eagles (3 im. and 1 ad.) were recorded at Land Between the Lakes (Honker Lake) on November 4 (CP); an immature was shot in Henry County in mid-November (NT). Marsh Hawks were scarce, although five were observed in migration in Bell County, September 19 (ALS, FS). Ten Ospreys were reported from Kentucky Lake to Cumberland Gap, and dates ranged from August 20 — an early date at Louisville (FK, JK) — to early October. Four Merlin were reported: one at Lexington, September 24 (AU); one at Bedford on September 28 (JY); one at Shakertown on September 30 (KOS); and one at Louisville, November 11 (VR, ALS).

*Cranes and Rails.* — Several flocks of Sandhill Cranes were reported: the first flock of 75 birds over south Louisville was on November 1 (WJ); one flock of 41 and one of 89 in Barren County on November 19 (FaS, RS); six at Louisville on November 19 (CR); and a flock heard in Jessamine County on November 28 (JW). Two Virginia Rail at Bedford on September 12 were of interest (JY). The two Soras on a Louisville farm, August 17, were early migrants (BPB).

*Coots through Shorebirds.* — American Coot migration was very much in evidence from October 28 to November 25: 1800 at Lake Pewee, Madisonville on October 28; 3700 there on November 20 and 1025 on November 25; and 800 at Falls of the Ohio on November 19 (ALS, FS). Most species of shorebirds were recorded but numbers were small. Some of the more interesting records were: four Piping Plover at Falls of the Ohio on August 16 (BPB); two Willet at Falls of the Ohio on August 20 (BPB) and two at Kentucky Lake, August 24 (JEr). Three Greater Yellowlegs at Louisville, November 18, established a late record for Kentucky (BBC), and the two Lesser Yellowlegs at Louisville, November 17, were also late in departing (BPB). A Red Knot at Kentucky Lake on August 1 and 3 was extremely early (JEr). A flock of 24 Pectoral Sandpipers lingered until November 9 at Lake Pewee (JH). A few Baird's were reported at Kentucky Lake from July 29 to September 12 (JEr). Noteworthy



records of the Dunlin included: one at the Cave Run Fish Hatchery in eastern Kentucky November 8 (WCG); two at Kentucky Lake, September 20 (JEr); and three at Lake Pewee, November 25 (JH). A Semipalmated Sandpiper on November 1, at Falls of the Ohio, established a late local record (DP). Only a few Western Sandpipers were recorded: two at Kentucky Lake on August 22, and three on August 24 (JEr); one at Falls of the Ohio on September 6 and 17 (JEl). Two reports of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper were received: two birds on September 6 (BPB); two on September 17 (JEl); both at Falls of the Ohio. The rare Red Phalarope was present at the Falls of the Ohio on November 1 (DP). Two Wilson's Phalaropes were reported: one at Falls of the Ohio, August 15 (BPB); and one at Kentucky Lake, August 20 (JEr).

*Gulls and Terns.* — Thirty-six Ring-billed Gulls were present at Barren River Reservoir on November 24 (ALS, FS); one was seen at Cave Run Fish Hatchery on November 8 (WCG). One to two Least Terns were observed from August 28 to September 6, at Kentucky Lake (JEr). Only a few Black Terns were reported: five to six on August 23 and 30, at Kentucky Lake (JEr); two on August 10, at Falls of the Ohio (ALS, FS), and seven there on August 19 (JEl); and two on September 5, at Kentucky Lake (JEr).

*Owls through Flycatchers.* — Two Short-eared Owls were reported near Glendale, Hardin County, in mid-November (RW, *vide* JR). A very late date for the Whip-poor-will was established on November 14, at Louisville (BPB). The migration of Common Nighthawks was noted on September 2 in northeast Louisville when 497 were counted (ALS, FS); 350 plus were sighted on September 10, two miles south of Murray (JEr); a flock of 101 on September 14, over south Louisville (JEl); and one bird recorded as late as October 23 (JEl). Chimney Swift migration was underway on August 19 at Louisville, when 100 were seen (ALS); 250 were observed five miles south of Murray on September 4 (JEr); but 1000 were flying about a chimney in south Louisville on October 7 (WJ). Large groups of Red-headed Woodpeckers were seen during the period at Glasgow (RS). An Eastern Kingbird on September 2 in Larue County was a late straggler (JEl). Two Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were reported: one on September 3, at Creason Park (JEl); and one on September 30, at Louisville (BPB). An Olive-sided Flycatcher on September 24, near Hamlin in southwestern Kentucky, was the only one reported (JEr). A large flock of swallows, estimated at 5000 birds, was observed at Columbus, September 15. It was estimated that 80 percent of the birds were Bank Swallows, 15 percent Tree Swallows, and 5 percent Rough-winged, Barn, and Purple Martins (JEr). A Barn Swallow on October 8, in Jefferson County, provided a late local record (DP). Small flocks of Blue Jay were migrating on September 24 over Louisville (ALS); and on September 28 and October 12 at Kentucky Lake (JEr). A roost of Common Crows numbering 2000, in southeast Jefferson County, was of interest (JEl).

*Chickadees through Wrens.* — Carolina Chickadees and Tufted Titmice were considered scarce in the Owensboro area (RI). Red-breasted Nuthatches were reported as being "more numerous than usual" at Glasgow, Barren County (RS), and at Louisville (BS). A Brown Creeper was recorded on September 18 at George Rogers Clark Park, and established

an early local record (BS). A House Wren on November 12 at Creason Park, Louisville, was a late straggler (JEl). A single Bewick's Wren was seen at Hamlin on August 20 — the first observed there in two years (JEr). Carolina Wrens suffered great losses during the past two severe winters throughout the state, and it was gratifying that a flock of 12 was reported around a woodpile on October 12 and 13 at Hamlin (JEr). Two records of the Long-billed Marsh Wren were received: one at Creason Park on October 8 (JEl); and one on the shore's edge of Kentucky Lake, October 10 (JEr).

*Thrushes through Kinglets.* — Robins began migrating fairly early: a flock of 200 on September 22 was seen at George Rogers Clark Park, Louisville (BS, FSh); another peak date was October 7 in northeast Louisville (ALS); and in western Kentucky on October 11 (JEr). A Swainson's Thrush at Kentucky Lake on October 19 was rather late in departing (JEr). A Veery banded at Anchorage on September 4 was an early local record (BM). Although the Eastern Bluebird continues to be scarce throughout the state small flocks of eight to ten were observed at Central Kentucky Wildlife Refuge, September 30 (WA, KOS); six to eight during the period at Sandy Hook (WCG); and eight in Crestwood, Oldham County (HA, m.o.b.). The earliest Ruby-crowned Kinglet was noticed at Okolona, Jefferson County, August 26 (DP).

*Warblers.* — The warbler migration was not spectacular, few waves were noticed; best days were between September 23 and 25. The Black-throated Blue Warbler arrived on the early date of September 4 at two places: one at Anchorage (BM); and one at Creason Park, Louisville (JEl). The individual late departure dates were: an immature Black-and-white Warbler on November 3, McNeely Lake (DP); Golden-winged Warbler on September 30, Louisville (BPB); Orange-crowned on November 6, at Louisville (JEl); and Northern Parula on October 6, in Jefferson County (DP).

*Blackbirds through Finches.* — A mixed flock of 3500-5000 Red-winged Blackbirds and Common Grackles was seen in Oldham County on October 5 (ALS, FS); a flock of 2000 Common Grackles was recorded in Jefferson County on November 13, but few were present in mid-December (ALS). A male Scarlet Tanager on October 26 at Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville, provided a late local record (BS, FSh, DD). A Blue Grosbeak was singing briefly on August 1 southwest of Madisonville (JH); six females were feeding along Cox's Creek, Nelson County, September 11 (KWC), providing Kentucky with its first fall record; four birds in Nelson County, September 17, possibly some of the group observed on September 11 (JEl). An immature Indigo Bunting on October 16, at the Falls of the Ohio, was a late straggler (DP). Evening Grosbeak were scarce or absent, although three males were seen as early as October 6, at McNeely Lake, with six as the high figure, and last observed on November 13 (DP). Purple Finches were not common anywhere; the earliest arrival was of a single bird at Crestwood on October 8 (ALS) but 36 were recorded at Bernheim Forest on November 1 (BS, FSh, DD); and first observed at Owensboro on November 18 (RI). Few Pine Siskin were reported. In recent years the Henslow's Sparrow has been lingering well into fall and one sighted in Louisville on November 2 was a record departure date (BPB). The winter resident sparrows were late in arriving and numbers were down from

1977. White-crowned Sparrows were down, particularly in the Louisville area (ALS).

*Contributors.* — (HA) Helen Abell; (WA) W. C. Alcock; (RB) Robert K. Brown; (KC) Kathryn W. Clay; (DC) Dennis Coskren; (DD) Donald DeVitt; (JEl) Jackie Elmore; (JEr) Joe Tom Erwin; (WCG) William C. Greene, Jr.; (JH) James W. Hancock; (RI) Ramon Isles; (RIr, SI) Robert and Sharon Irscher; (GJ) George Johnson; (IK) Irene Kemper; (FK, JK) Frank X. and John Krull; (WJ) Wilbur Jackson; (BM) Burt L. Monroe, Jr.; (RM) Robert Morris; (BPB) Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.; (DP) Donald Parker; (CP) Clell Peterson; (LR) Lene Rauth; (JR) Jon E. Rickert; (VR) Virginia Calvert Rommel; (CR) Mrs. Charles Robertson; (LS) Larry Sanders; (BS) Bernice Shannon; (FSh) Francis Shannon; (LaS) Lawrence D. Smith; (ALS) Anne L. Stamm; (FS) Frederick W. Stamm; (FaS) Faye Starr; (RS) Russell Starr; (NT) Nancy Theiss; (AU) Andrew Uterhart; (RW) Robert Wade; (JW) J. R. Wilson; (JY) John Young. Other abbreviations — (BBC) Beckham Bird Club; (KOS) Kentucky Ornithological Society; (m.o.b.) many observers.  
—2101 Spokane Way, Louisville, Kentucky, 40222.



WOOD STORK. Photographed on September 12, 1978, at Cox's Creek, Nelson County, by Frederick W. Stamm.

## BOOK REVIEW

*WHERE TO FIND BIRDS IN FLORIDA*, edited by Margaret C. Bowman and Herbert W. Kale II, revised edition 1977. Florida Audubon Society, Maitland, Florida 32751; 33 pp. and 21 black-and-white photographs. \$2.00 plus .50 postage and handling.

This brief guide to bird finding in Florida is the third edition of a publication with the title *Where to find birds and enjoy natural history in Florida*. It represents the work of several authors acquainted with Florida birding areas; localities are described, directions are given, and species of interest are mentioned. The writers have divided the state into four regions as follows: south Florida and Grand Bahama Island; interior Florida; east coast; and gulf coast. Many actual birding sites are not listed in the table of contents; for example, under the heading of Deland are described seven birding sites. In addition to such highly publicized areas as Everglades National Park and Corkscrew Sanctuary, many birding areas probably unknown to out-of-staters are included. The descriptions are not verbose but are crisply stated.

There are many bird-finding guides available today, but for the person interested in an inexpensive publication written by several people well acquainted with the birding areas being described, this booklet is recommended. — H. E. SHADOWEN, 1927 Cedar Ridge Rd., Bowling Green 32101.

## FIELD NOTES

### RAVEN AND OSPREY IN SOUTHEASTERN KENTUCKY

Mengel (1965) stated that the Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) was at one time a resident of the Cumberland Plateau and Cumberland Mountains of eastern Kentucky and was probably at least a vagrant in more western portions of the state but is now extirpated. Monroe (1969) also reported the raven to be extinct in the state.

On March 22, 1978 we heard a raven below the Ridge Trail between Sand Cave and White Rocks in Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, Harlan Co., Kentucky. The following day we saw a raven at the same locality and heard one there again on March 24.

Dennis Coskren visited the area seeking ravens on April 8. He saw and heard one from White Rocks. Jarvis Hudson, while birding along the Ridge Trail on June 10 heard a raven at Chadwell Gap, in Bell County.

Unfortunately, we have no evidence of more than one raven spending the breeding season in Kentucky. Perhaps the aforementioned sightings were of a non-breeding individual. We hope that future observers can establish that this magnificent bird has returned as a member of our breeding fauna. Although the raven is generally rare in the eastern states, it seems to be making a comeback. Hall (*American Birds* 1977 a, 1977b) notes an increase of the raven in West Virginia, and a modest range expansion from its stronghold in the West Virginia mountains.

At noon on June 21, 1978 we saw an Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) approach the lake at US. 25E and the entrance to Pine Mountain State Park, Bell Co., Kentucky. The bird hit the water, arose and flew off. We could not tell if it captured a fish.

Mengel (1965) listed the Osprey as a summer resident of western Kentucky, where he suspected it of breeding at a few localities along the Mississippi River. The bird we saw was probably a wandering individual. The locality does not seem suitable for breeding ospreys. — CHARLES K. SMITH and WAYNE H. DAVIS, School of Biological Sciences, University of Kentucky, Lexington 40506.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

Membership Awards in the Kentucky Ornithological Society are available to persons who have shown a sincere interest in birds and the field of ornithology. We particularly invite the nomination of students although by no means is it restricted to that group.

Beginning immediately K.O.S. members may send nominations to Pierre N. Allaire, Dept. of Biology, University of Louisville, Louisville, Ky. 40208. Nominees will be forwarded an application and asked for one letter of recommendation. The Membership Award provides a one-year gratis new membership in the Kentucky Ornithological Society.

### K.O.S. SPRING MEETING

You are encouraged to attend our spring meeting to be held at Mammoth Cave National Park on April 27, 28, and 29. Those interested in making a presentation at the Friday evening program should contact the Program Chairman, Ramon Iles, 2223 St. James Court, Owensboro 42301.

### IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Margaret Riddle

Mr. Chester Sundquist