

5-1979

Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 55, no. 2)

Kentucky Library Research Collections
Western Kentucky University, spcol@wku.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ky_warbler



Part of the [Ornithology Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Kentucky Library Research Collections, "Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 55, no. 2)" (1979). *Kentucky Warbler*. Paper 216.
http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ky_warbler/216

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in Kentucky Warbler by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact topscholar@wku.edu.

The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

VOL. 55

MAY, 1979

NO. 2



IN THIS ISSUE

ANALYSIS OF KENTUCKY'S BREEDING BIRDS: INCREASING SPECIES, Burt L. Monroe, Jr.	23
THE WINTER SEASON OF 1978-1979, Anne L. Stamm	29
K.O.S. SPRING MEETING, APRIL 27-29	32
FIELD NOTE	34
NEWS AND VIEWS	35

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

President	Andrew Uterhart, Lexington
Vice-President	Ramon Iles, Owensboro
Corr. Sec.-Treasurer	Mrs. F. W. Stamm 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville, Ky. 40222
Recording Secretary	Sister Casimir Czurles, Owensboro
Councillors:	
Pierre Allaire, Jackson	1977-1979
Dr. Hunter Hancock, Murray	1977-1979
Mrs. Molly Caldwell, Danville	1978-1980
Ed Wilson, Owensboro	1978-1980
Retiring President	A. L. Whitt, Jr., Richmond
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

We are indebted to Joe O. Knight, Jr. for the attractive cover picture of the Brown Thrasher feeding young at the nest. He photographed the birds on June 13, 1977, and made the black-and-white print from his color transparency.

ANALYSIS OF KENTUCKY'S BREEDING BIRDS: INCREASING SPECIES

BURT L. MONROE, JR.

Based on Kentucky's summer breeding bird surveys, coordinated by the Migratory Bird and Habitat Research Laboratory of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, I reported (Monroe, *Ky Warbler*, 54:19-26, 1978) population changes over an eleven-year period for species that appeared to be declining in numbers. The present paper deals with species that have displayed increases in numbers over the same period of time. In addition to the paper mentioned above, in which rationalization is presented for utilization of data from 1967 through 1977, I refer the reader to two other papers (Monroe, *Ky Warbler*, 46:43-45, 1970, and 51:39-45, 1975) that explain techniques for taking said counts and general trends for Kentucky's breeding species over a nine-year period (1966-1974), respectively.

Thirteen species of breeding birds have exhibited increases exceeding 30% over the eleven-year period under study. Two others (Mourning Dove, *Zenataura macroura*, and Starling *Sturnus vulgaris*) had exhibited increases of more than 45% at some point during the period but have declined slightly in recent years, resulting in a comparative increase of less than 30% between 1967 and 1977; these two are analyzed, however, as it is felt that the increases represent real, overall population changes.

Six of the fifteen increasing species have such low breeding population levels or fluctuate so much annually that the increases are not statistically significant. The three with the lowest numbers (White-breasted Nuthatch, *Sitta carolinensis*, 0.32-0.53; Blue-winged Warbler, *Vermivora pinus*, 0.26-0.56; Blue Grosbeak *Guiraca caerulea*, 0.21-0.56) [figures indicate mean number of individuals per Kentucky count in 1967 and 1977, respectively] have such small populations that a few additional individuals cause a large change in the count figures, and thus their population increases may be artifacts. It should be mentioned, however, that one species (Blue Grosbeak) is expanding its range; a population increase based on individuals per summer count should be expected. The other three species have slightly higher population levels but fluctuate sufficiently to preclude considering the increases as significant. The three are Common (Yellow-shafted) Flicker, *Colaptes auratus* (4.05-5.31), Eastern Kingbird, *Tyrannus tyrannus* (5.39-7.97), and Purple Martin, *Progne subis* (4.74-6.25). The nine species that are significantly increasing are analyzed in Table I.

The most abundant of the nine increasing species, the Starling, exhibits a puzzling and unique pattern. With the exception of 1974, the species seems to have exhibited a significant increase between 1971 and 1972, with essentially stable populations before and since; however, the startling increase of about 35 birds per count (a 35% increase) between 1973 and 1974 remains unexplained. That the increase is probably an artifact is supported by the general stability otherwise between 1972 and the present. My first reaction was that the increase was real, followed by a decline as a result of the initial treatment of winter roosts in Kentucky with the distressing agent PA-14 ("Tergitol"), as mentioned in Monroe and L. S. Cronholm (*Proc. 7th Bird Control Seminar*, pp. 90-91, 1977). I suspect now that the exceptionally high 1974 count may have resulted from an earlier breeding season, with an excess of young individuals present at the time of the June counts. In any event, the species does appear to have shown an overall increase over the decade (Fig. 1).

Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), another common sum-

mer resident, have shown a relatively steady increase since 1972, with the major change occurring between 1969 and 1971; measured from 1971 to the present, the change is not statistically significant, due in part to a slight decline in the past year (Fig. 1).

The Mourning Dove increased significantly between 1967 and 1970 (more than 40%), remained essentially stable until 1976, and declined sharply in 1977 (result of harsh winter of 1976-77?). These figures are encouraging, however, as they show that proper management of a game species may result in stable or increasing populations (Fig. 1).

Robins (*Turdus migratorius*) increased over the decade, with a peak in 1975, followed by slight declines in the past two years, probably as a result of the winters (Fig. 2).

Perhaps of greatest interest among our increasing species are the three totally insectivorous (and migratory) ones, the Barn Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*) and Common Yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas*). Not only have all three increased at a relatively steady and significant rate over the decade (Figs. 2 and 3), but they are the only three (of the nine being analyzed) that have shown increases between 1976 and 1977! These data are certainly supportive of the idea that the other six, all of which winter (at least in part) in Kentucky, have been subjected to population declines from the severe winters since 1976.

The Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) has shown a very sharp increase, at least from 1967 to 1976; the decline last year, once again, was apparently due to the winter weather. Overall, however, this species has exhibited a significant increase over the decade (Fig. 3).

Population increase in the Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) is due in part to the range expansion of the series. In contrast to the Blue Grosbeak, which is spreading northward, the Song Sparrow is now breeding in areas south of its former range. Winter again probably produced the decline last year (Fig. 3).

As one might expect, all increasing species are in some way associated with man or agricultural systems in habitats that are increasing or at least are not being threatened by human interference. Two of the three insectivorous, migratory species utilize human structures for breeding; the other occupies weedy, brushy or grassy habitats produced in large part by man's activities.

A few comments relative to the most abundant breeding species are pertinent here and fit in well with the data thus present on the increasing species. Among the ten most common birds reported on Kentucky's summer counts (based on 1977 figures), four (Starling, #2; Red-winged Blackbird, #3; Barn Swallow, #6 and Robin, #8) are among those increasing as might be expected, but one (Eastern Meadowlark, #7) is among the declining ones discussed in last year's article. The remaining species (Common Grackle, #1; House Sparrow, #4; Indigo Bunting, #5; Cardinal, #9; and Common Crow, #10) do not exhibit significant changes over the decade, although most have shown some fluctuation over the years. The only two species of the top ten to migrate out of Kentucky for the winter (Indigo Bunting and Barn Swallow) showed an increase between 1976 and 1977; of the remaining eight, only the House Sparrow and Common Crow increased between these years. Thus I think one can safely say that the recent severe winters have had a significant effect on Kentucky's breeding birds, even the most abundant ones. — Department of Biology, University of Louisville, Louisville 40208.

THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

1979

Table 1. Mean number of individuals recorded per Kentucky route, 1967-1977, for nine increasing species.

SPECIES	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977
Killdeer	2.39	2.17	2.39	2.39	4.00	5.21	4.86	6.79	6.55	8.45	5.09
Mourning Dove	30.24	32.63	36.16	43.29	43.30	42.94	42.83	43.52	40.87	45.48	36.72
Chimney Swift	17.32	20.88	22.66	19.42	26.00	22.56	21.00	24.38	23.90	22.94	27.31
Barn Swallow	25.71	28.00	32.32	32.00	37.42	42.21	35.14	39.66	40.94	33.88	43.47
Robin	27.21	25.49	25.34	30.29	34.18	39.59	36.17	42.21	43.52	40.09	38.25
Starling	76.16	71.95	68.87	63.10	75.36	97.35	98.00	133.93	95.23	94.61	86.59
Common Yellowthroat	14.47	17.59	16.50	16.42	14.85	19.21	15.69	19.28	19.52	18.85	22.47
Red-winged Blackbird	50.55	45.73	44.16	63.29	78.61	72.56	85.69	83.76	84.71	82.00	77.38
Song Sparrow	10.61	10.66	12.71	12.42	10.64	14.50	15.36	17.07	19.32	19.76	14.91

[Data from Migratory Bird and Habitat Research Laboratory, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.]

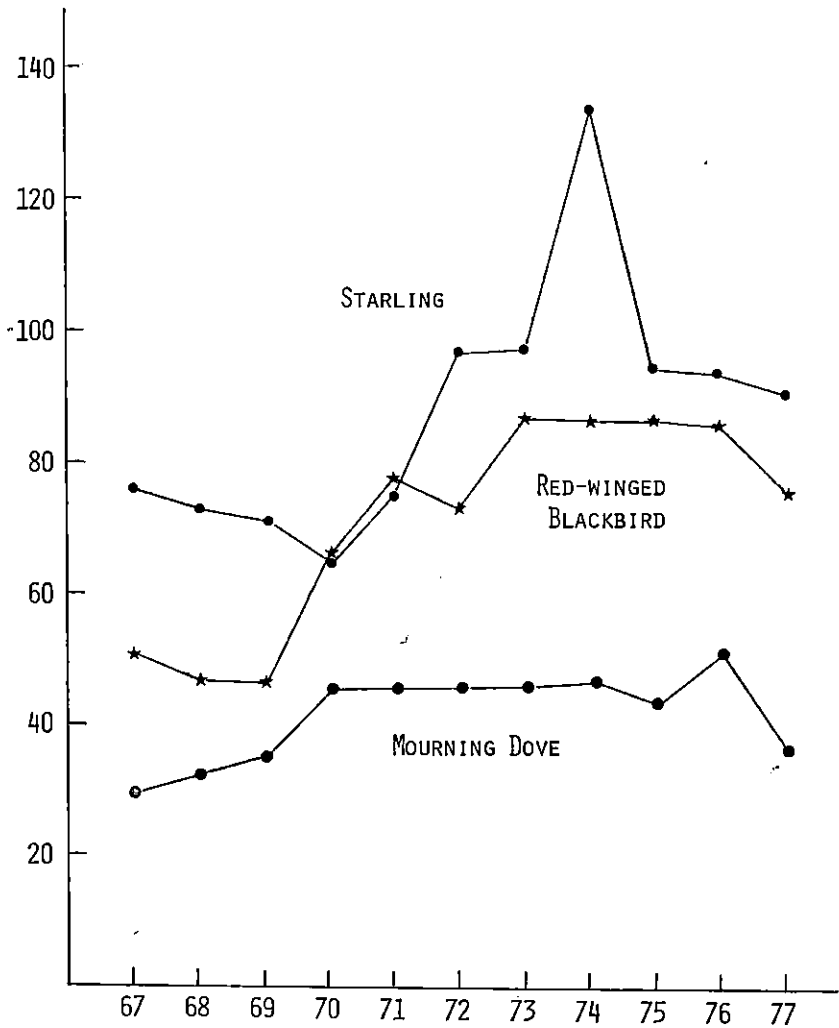


Figure 1. Mean number of individuals per Kentucky count, 1967-1977, for the Starling, Red-winged Blackbird and Mourning Dove.

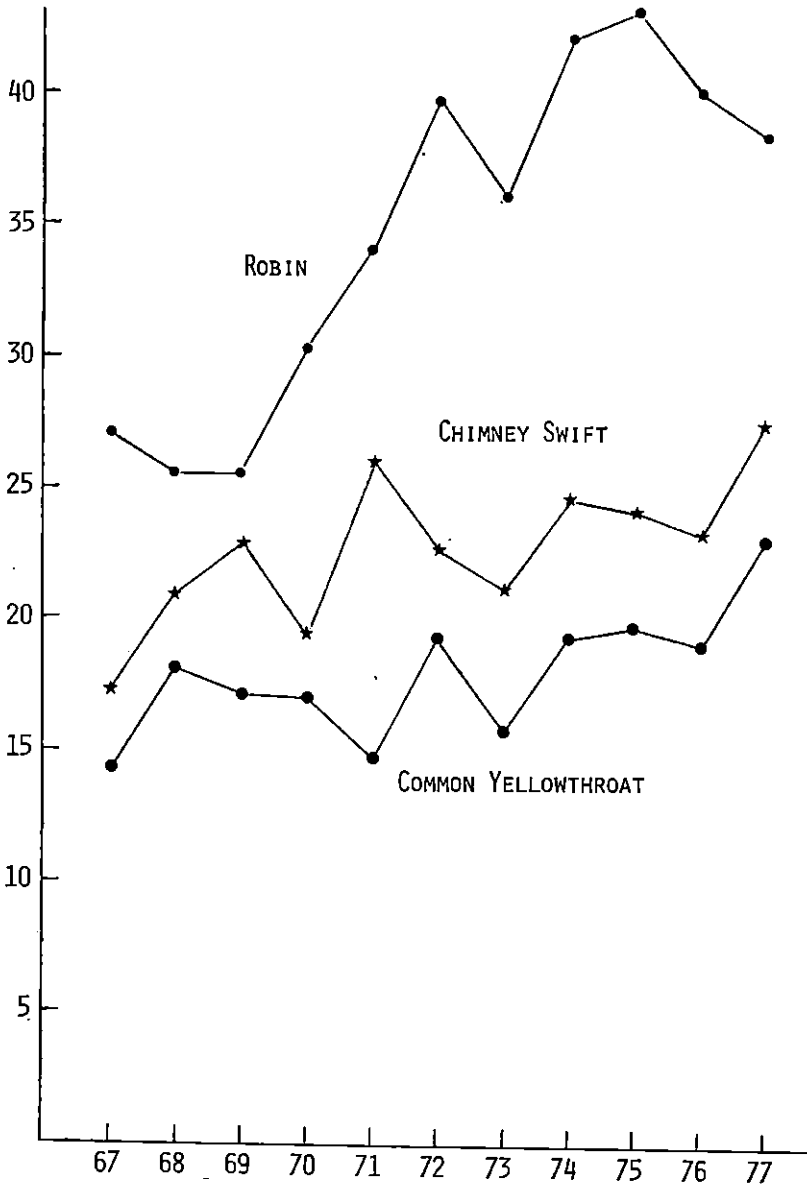


Figure 2. Mean number of individuals per Kentucky count, 1967-1977, for the Robin, Chimney Swift and Common Yellowthroat.

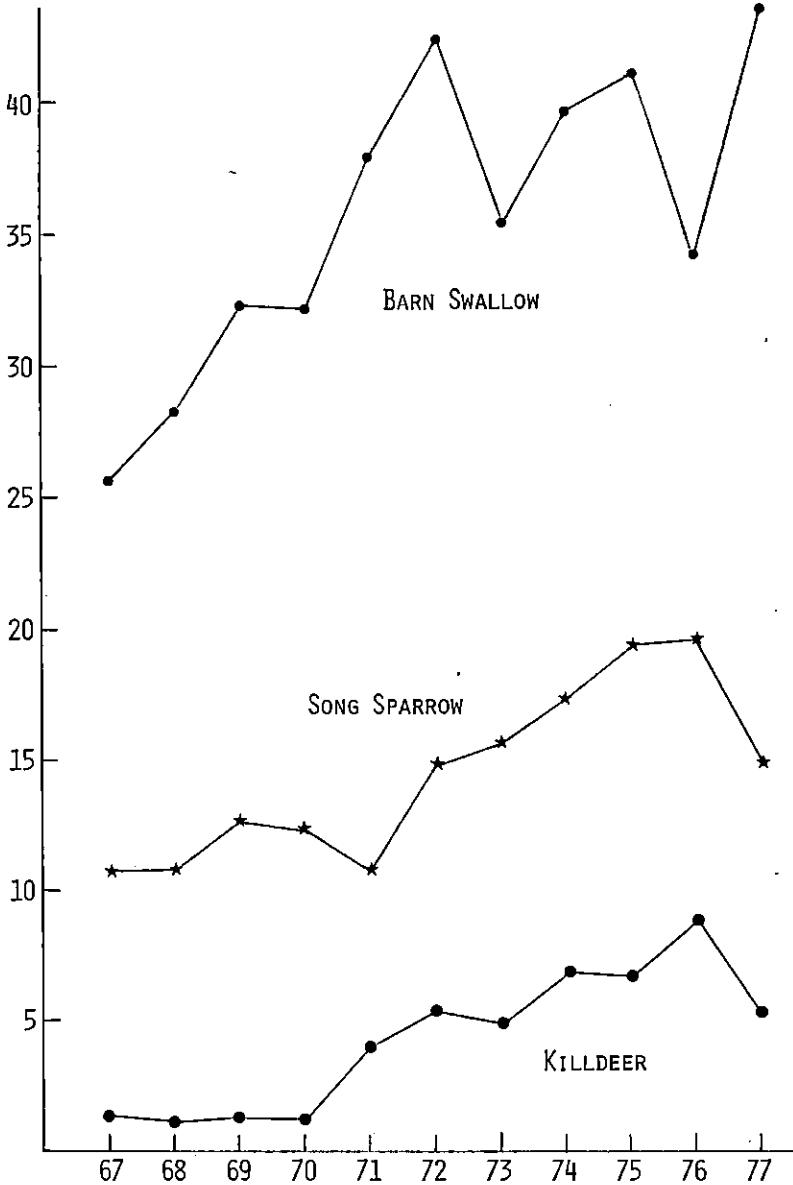


Figure 3. Mean number of individuals per Kentucky count, 1967-1977, for the Barn Swallow, Song Sparrow and Killdeer.

THE WINTER SEASON OF 1978-1979

ANNE L. STAMM

December was warm and averaged 4.4 degrees above normal. Floods occurred during the middle of the month, and in the Louisville area the precipitation was as much as 4.30 inches above normal. January and February were cold months, with snow and sleet storms prevalent. The temperature averaged 8.7 degree below normal in January and 7.8 degrees below normal in February. High water and flooding was general throughout the state in late February. Green River, Rolling Fork, and Salt Rivers were all out of their banks on February 23-26. Heaviest snow of the season fell on February 18, with Fayette and Jefferson Counties receiving from four to eight inches, 13 inches at Glasgow, and smaller amounts in western Kentucky.

The winter season, with few exceptions, was generally considered dull. The icy roads and snow kept most observers from doing extensive field work. Few ducks were seen in Central Kentucky in January and February and this was probably due to the high water and swift currents. Observers reported American Kestrel eating suet at feeding stations, or preying on small birds. Northern finches were few in number as compared to last year. Most observers felt that birds were difficult to find and that numbers were down from previous years.

A few rarities were reported and added interest to the otherwise uneventful season. A Red-necked Grebe was at Louisville, seven Whistling Swan at Elizabethtown, and two Glaucous Gulls were seen at the Falls of the Ohio. Two reports of partial albinistic birds were of interest: a Robin at Fern Creek by John Parrish and a House Sparrow at Louisville by Anne L. Stamm.

Loons through Grebes. — A single Common Loon was present in January and lingered through the period on a small body of water in Cave Hill Cemetery, Louisville (CR, MS). A Red-necked Grebe, a rare transient here, was seen at Louisville, February 16 (BPP, LR, AB).

Swans through Ducks — Seven Whistling Swans were noted on Freeman Lake, Elizabethtown on January 3, 4, and 5 (JR). Many persons saw the swans after a "bird alert" was put into action. Some Canada Geese were late in migrating south: a flock of 300-400 was seen flying over west Louisville, December 1 (HS *vide* WJ). Large flocks of Canada Geese winter at Ballard Waterfowl Management Area and 135,000 were tabulated there on February 8 (Mrs. JM); flocks were observed moving northward and passed over Lake Barkley "all during the day" on February 23 (IK, WK); and three flocks of 50 or more each were noted there on the following day (HH, FS). Fifty-one Snow Geese (both forms) were recorded at the transient lakes, Bowling Green on December 23 (GJ). The record is of interest since the species is seldom observed at these lakes. The Mallard count at Henderson on December 17 was 7000 (RD). Also, the flock of 1150 Ring-necked Ducks at Lake Pewee, Madisonville, was considered of interest (JH). Only small numbers of Canvasback Ducks were recorded in the Louisville area, but 61 were present at Lake Pewee on December 26 (JH). The sighting of 55 Ruddy Ducks at Lake Pewee, December 17-26,

was of special interest since the species is considered to be uncommon to rare in winter. Common Mergansers were seen in "fair numbers" at Danville in late February (FL).

Vultures, Hawks and Eagles. — Turkey Vultures showed a 66.6% decrease over last year on the CBC's. However, the rainy weather on many of the counts may have played a part in this over-all picture. A single Sharp-shinned Hawk was observed "regularly" at Big Pond Sanctuary, Rough River (KWC); one at Silo Overlook, Lake Barkley, February 24 (ALS, FS, GH); also observed at Marion, January 27 (CF); no others were reported. Red-tailed Hawks were observed in good numbers across the state. Twenty Red-shouldered Hawks were recorded on the CBC's from seven areas; other sightings not listed in the previous locations were: one near the Cumberland River (Wolf Creek Dam area) on January 26 (DC); one at Cave Run area, Rowan County, January 24 (WG); and one at Rough River, January 20 (KM, KWC). Rough-legged Hawks were widely spread and reported singly and up to three in the following areas: Danville (FL); Marion (CF); Covington (EL), Glasgow (RS); south Louisville (ALS, FS); east Louisville (FK, JK); and Muhlenberg County (PH); others were at Frankfort, Kleber, and Lexington (CBC). A total of 89 Bald Eagles was sighted on the one-day count, January 20 (m.o.b.). Two Golden Eagles were reported at Land Between the Lakes on January 22 (CP). Three Ospreys were sighted along the Ohio River, near Marion, January 27, while checking for eagles (CF). A Merlin appeared three times in the vicinity of a feeding station at Jeffersontown, January 29, 31 and later (RMA, WM). During January and February, when the ground was covered with snow, the American Kestrel was observed preying on small birds at feeding stations at the following locations: Glasgow (RS); Fern Creek (JP); Frankfort (CG); and at Louisville (ALS, FS). The species was widely distributed and in fair numbers: twenty-one sighted in a four and one-half hour period on January 20 in Breckinridge County (KM, KWC); and twelve on the same date in a three-hour period in the Burlington area in Boone County (LYM, LM).

Galliformes, Shorebirds, and Gulls. — Bobwhites were down in numbers all across the state. Snow and ice covered much of their natural food during January and February and they sought the protection of man: 12 fed twice daily below a feeding station at Bowling Green (HS) and 17 fed at a Elizabethtown station (JR); the mid-winter count was the lowest in 27 years. The 50 Sandhill Cranes observed flying south on Dec. 5 in Oldham County were rather late stragglers (BL). The American Woodcock arrived later than usual; it was first heard at Rough River on March 1st (KWC). An adult Glaucous Gull was seen at the Falls of the Ohio on February 14-16 and an immature there on February 18 (BPB, AB, LR).

Doves, Owls and Woodpeckers. — Mourning Doves were reported in large numbers at feeding stations in the Louisville area. No Short-eared Owls were reported, with the exception of the two at Henderson (RD) and the one at Bernheim Forest (LaS). The Common Flicker was down considerably in some locations; the mid-winter count showed a 43.5% decrease over the 1977-78 counts.

Nuthatches through Shrikes. — The Red-breasted Nuthatch was not as widely distributed and numbers were not comparable to last year. The Carolina Wren was absent from some sections and the mid-winter count revealed a 91.8% decrease over two years ago. A few Brown Thrashers were wintering at Madisonville; two were seen there on February 8 (JH). In some sections the Mockingbird disappeared during January and February. American Robins began appearing in yards in mid-January despite the snow-covered ground. Eastern Bluebirds were in low numbers throughout the state, with the exception of Lexington, where 69 were recorded (CBC); none were seen in Louisville. Cedar Waxwings began appearing in suburban yards in early February: in Fern Creek, a flock of 12 sat in a flowering crabapple tree and fed on the frozen fruit (LL); 25 were seen in west Louisville on February 18 (WJ); and 50 were at Danville late in the month (FL). A Loggerhead Shrike was observed decapitating a House Sparrow at Big Pond Sanctuary, Rough River (KWC).

Icterids and Fringilids. — No large black bird roosts were reported; apparently the majority of birds moved farther south when the cold weather arrived. A flock of 5000 Common Grackle fed in east Louisville on December 10 (FS), but were gone within a few days. Flocks of several thousand Common Grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds were observed moving northward on February 23 at Elizabethtown and Caneyville (ALS, FS). There was no pronounced invasion of northern finches. Evening Grosbeaks were reported from only a few places and in small numbers. Purple Finches were present but not common; they were "the lowest in history" at Glasgow (RS); and first observed in Todd County on December 17 (PH). Pine Siskins were scarce and only reported in a few localities. Tree Sparrows were scarce statewide: they appeared singly and up to three birds at feeding stations at Louisville during January and February (JEL, ALS, FS); the mid-winter counts showed a 91.4% decrease over last year. An occasional Fox Sparrow came to feeders during the severe cold days in January: Fern Creek (DS); Rough River (KWC); Louisville (ALS); and Madisonville (JH). Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings were reported in small numbers at Louisville during January (BPB).

Contributors. — (AB) Alan Barron; (KWC) Kathryn W. Clay; (DC) Dennis Coskren; (RD) Ronald Dodson; (JEL) Jackie Elmore; (CF) Chastain Frazer; (CG) Charles Grayson; (WG) William C. Greene, Jr.; (HH) Hunter Hancock; (JH) James Hancock; (GH) Given Harper; (PH) Phillip Hyatt; (WJ) Wilbur Jackson; (GJ) George Johnson; (IK) Irene Kemper; (WK) Wesley Kemper; (FK) Frank Krull; (JK) John Krull; (EL) Edwin Larson; (LL) Louis Laukhuf; (BL) Barbara Lensing; (FL) Frederick W. Loetscher, Jr.; (LM) Lee McNeely; (LyM) Lynda McNeely; (Mrs. JM) Mrs. James Moynahan; (KM) Kay Mudd; (BPB) Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.; (JP) John Parrish; (CP) Clell Peterson; (LR) Lene Rauth; (JR) Jon Rickert; (CR) Mrs. Charles Robertson; (HS) Herbert Shadowen; (HS) Harry Singer; (MS) Mabel Slack; (LaS) Lawrence D. Smith; (ALS) Anne L. Stamm; (FS) Frederick W. Stamm; (RS) Russell Starr; (DS) Donna Sumpter. Other abbreviations — (CBC) Christmas Bird Counts; (m.o.b.) many observers.

— 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40222.

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY SPRING MEETING

April 27, 28, 29, 1979

The fifty-sixth Annual Spring Meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society was held April 27, 28, 29, 1979 at Mammoth Cave National Park.

President Andrew Uterhart welcomed the members at the general session held in the lounge of the Lodge at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Ramon Iles, Vice-president, commented on the Saturday morning field trips and introduced the program for the evening. Mr. Allen Stickley of the Bowling Green Research Station of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported on studies being conducted on roost species. The number of birds roosting in the Kentucky-Tennessee area during the winter of 1978-79 showed a great decline. The detrimental economic impact of roosting species does not appear to be as great as earlier predicted by various organizations. Dr. Burt L. Monroe, Jr. gave an interesting presentation of Kentucky's breeding birds, with emphasis on those species that are increasing in number.

After adjournment the Board of Directors met. Among the items considered were the following, which should have been presented to the membership at the scheduled Saturday evening business meeting (The president did not call the meeting). Mrs. Ruth Mathes sent a letter, announcing her resignation as Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer due to health. Mrs. F. W. Stamm was asked to serve until the next annual meeting. Two resolutions were approved at the executive meeting: the first resolution supported the concept of a paid hot line for reporting unusual observations and urged participation by K.O.S. members; the second resolution recognized the desirability of the establishment of additional bird chapters in Kentucky and expressed appreciation to Jon Rickert for his willingness to head the bird chapter organizational effort. No decision was made concerning the date and site of the 1980 spring meeting.

The weather on Saturday was excellent for field trips in the surrounding area. Following the Saturday evening banquet, an interesting slide presentation of Florida birds was presented by Dr. Uterhart.

A total of 107 species of birds were recorded on Field trips in the park during the weekend.

Respectfully submitted,
Sister Casimir Czurlis
Recording Secretary

BIRDS OBSERVED AT THE SPRING MEETING, 1979

Pied-billed Grebe, Green Heron, Blue-winged Teal, Wood Duck, Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, American Kestrel, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Barred Owl, Whip-poor-will, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Common Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Kingbird, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Acadian Flycatcher, Eastern Wood Pewee, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-

breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, American Robin, Wood Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Veery, Eastern Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Palm Warbler, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Hooded Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, American Redstart, Eastern Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Northern Oriole, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Summer Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow.

ATTENDANCE AT THE SPRING MEETING, 1979

- ANCHORAGE: Dr. Burt L. Monroe, Jr.
- BOWLING GREEN: Jeff Jones, Marla Nunley, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert E. Shadowen, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Stickley.
- CARLISLE: Dr. and Mrs. Wendell Kingsolver.
- DANVILLE: Dr. and Mrs. H. G. Caldwell.
- ELIZABETHTOWN: George Elliott, Paul Gerrard, Jon Rickert.
- FRANKFORT: Mr. and Mrs. Howard P. Jones.
- GLASGOW: Dr. Russell Starr.
- LEXINGTON: Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Reece, Dr. Andrew Uterhart, Mr. and Mrs. J. Williams.
- LOUISVILLE: Mr. and Mrs. Pierre Allaire, Brian Anderson, Dr. and Mrs. Austin Bloch, Robert K. Brown, Dr. and Mrs. Herbert Clay, Dr. and Mrs. R. L. Hectorne, K. Mudd, Holly Oldham, Dorothy Peil, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Sanders, Evelyn Schneider, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Susie, Audrey Wright, Helen Peil Zuercher.
- MADISONVILLE: Thelma Gentry, Mr. and Mrs. N. W. Travis.
- OWENSBORO: Sister Casimir, Mr. and Mrs. Ramon Iles, Albert Powell, Wynema Sims, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Wilson.
- RICHMOND: Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Whitt, Jr.
- SPRINGFIELD: Dr. John Barber.
- VALLEY STATION: Mr. and Mrs. Donald Summerfield.
- ANN ARBOR, Michigan: Mr. and Mrs. John Cheek.
- SEATTLE, WASHINGTON: Dr. William Watts.
- COOKEVILLE, TENNESSEE: Ray Mayberry, Allen Temple.

FIELD NOTE

WHITE IBIS AT CENTERFIELD, KENTUCKY

On the hazy evening of August 9, 1978, at 6:15 p.m., our attention was drawn to three unusual waterbirds feeding along the banks of our three-quarter acre pond in Centerfield, three miles outside of Crestwood in Oldham County, Kentucky. The birds made several trips around the pond feeding and stopping on occasion to rest and preen.

After checking a field guide, we determined that we had seen three immature White Ibis (*Eudocimus albus*) which were far from their normal



Three White Ibis — photo taken August 9, 1978 by Robert Irmscher.

range — that being the low country from South Carolina to Texas. I then decided to take photos with my telephoto lens. The Ibis were not in any way concerned with my presence. In fact, I managed to walk within approximately 30 feet from them and could have gotten closer but chose not to push my luck.

The Ibis were similar in shape and size to the Snowy Egret (*Leucophox thula*). Their bills were curved downward and flesh-colored. Their legs were long and gray; their backs a dull gray-brown; and their heads and necks were a lighter color of gray-brown. The entire under parts of the immature birds were snowy white, this part being extremely noticeable when they would jump or open their wings.

The birds departed the same day and left at 7:58 p.m. — SHARON and ROBERT IRMSCHER, 5006 Fairview Drive, Crestwood 40014.

NEWS AND VIEWS

FIRST K.O.S. MEMBERSHIP AWARD PRESENTED

The K.O.S. Membership Award Committee presented its first award to Brian Anderson, A University of Louisville graduate student. Mr. Anderson arrived in Kentucky in August of 1978 after completing a Master of Science degree at DePauw University, where he studied population dynamics of the House Sparrow.

The awards are given to people with an interest in ornithology to encourage them to become active members of the K.O.S. Members are encouraged to nominate others for these awards. The next nominations will be acted upon in the spring of 1980.

THE KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE EAGLE MANAGEMENT TEAM

A new group, The Kentucky-Tennessee Eagle Management Team, was established last year to conduct cooperative surveys of the eagles in the two states, chiefly in the western parts, and to engage in increased educational and research programs designed to be beneficial to all raptors. In an attempt to increase the amount of information about eagles in the area, the team is requesting that observers report any eagle sightings. Reports and requests for further information may be addressed to either of the co-chairmen of the Team: John L. Mechler, Land Between the Lakes, Golden Pond, Ky. 42231 or Clell T. Peterson, Box 2364 University Station, Murray, Ky. 42071.

K.O.S. NESTING PROGRAM

K.O.S. has been cooperating for many years with the Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University in its North American Nest Record Program, and it is hoped that many members will continue to participate. Your efforts are appreciated and be assured that all completed cards are sent to Cornell where they are being used "for some very worthwhile projects." If you did not pick up cards at the registration desk at the Spring Meeting at Mammoth Cave National Park, please write to Anne L. Stamm, 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville, Kentucky 40222. Also, return the completed cards to her. Please, check your files to see if you mailed your 1978 cards; few have been received.

In one of the recent Newsletters put out by the Laboratory of Ornithology the Kentucky Ornithological Society was recognized along with others for contributing a "substantial number of cards." Keep up the good work!

OWL INFORMATION REQUESTED

Mr. Bob Brown is currently a graduate student at the University of Louisville and is studying the feeding habits of Kentucky owls. If you have information of the roosting or nesting sites of owls or if you can collect pellets, he would appreciate your assistance. Pellets should be packed in cotton to protect them in mailing. If any owls are found dead, they should be frozen. Mr. Brown's address is: Department of Biology, University of Louisville, Louisville 40208. Telephone: (502) 588-5938.

K.O.S. FALL MEETING

The fall meeting will be held at the Executive-Inn Rivermont, Owensboro, October 5, 6, and 7. Our last meeting held at Owensboro was excellent. Make your reservation at the motel of your choice.