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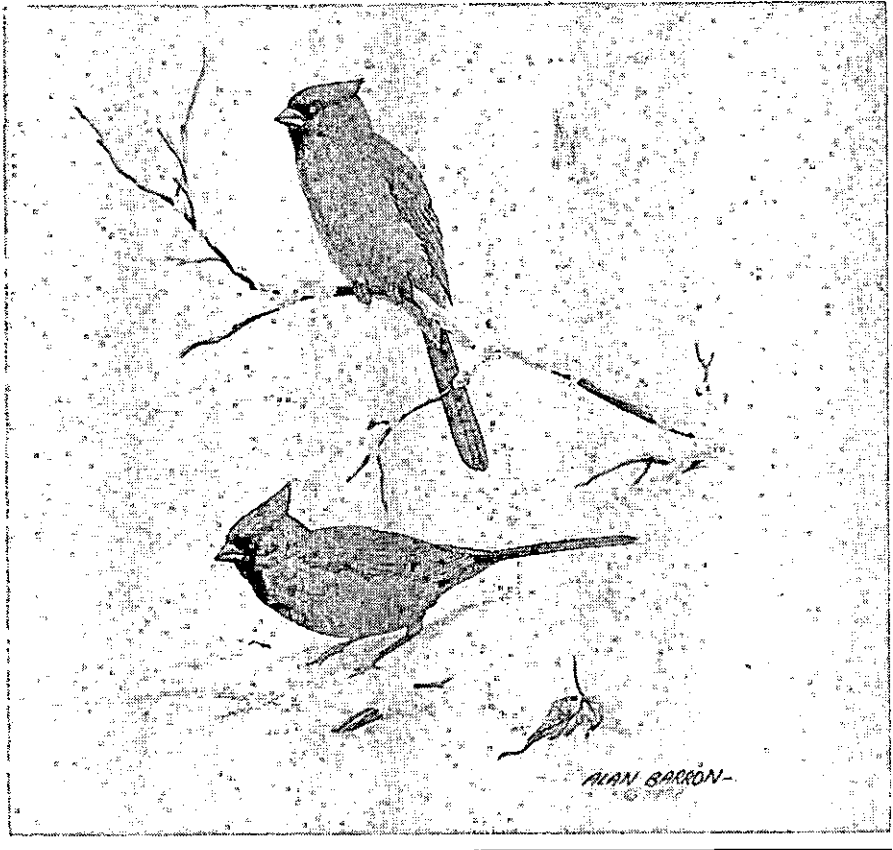
The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

VOL. 55

NOVEMBER, 1979

NO. 4



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THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

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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.

Editor..... H. E. Shadowen, Biology Department, Western Kentucky Univ.,
Bowling Green 42101

Editorial Advisory Board

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

Burt L. Monroe, Jr.

OUR COVER

The cover picture is taken from an original water color of a pair of Cardinals (*Richmondina cardinalis*) by Alan Barron, member of the Beckham Bird Club, Louisville Chapter of the Kentucky Ornithological Society. The Society is pleased to have this artistic study of the Cardinals in the snow for its cover page.

THE NESTING SEASON, SUMMER 1979

ANNE L. STAMM

The summer season could best be described as cool and wet. The temperature dropped to a record low in Louisville on June 25, with 51 degrees; it was 45 degrees at Lexington. The month of July was the coolest since 1971, and it was the wettest since 1910 with over 10 inches of rain during the month; normal for July is 3.76 inches. High water covered the rock ledge at the Falls of the Ohio until the latter part of July, thus reducing shorebird habitat in the Louisville area. Rainfall for June, however, was below average.

Observers commented on the lack of excitement during the period; many of the weekends in early July were rainy and did not permit much field work.

The spring migration continued later than normal as was indicated in the spring report, with a few species continuing until early June. The effects of the recent severe winters on a number of species were still evident particularly the Bobwhite, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Eastern Bluebird, and Eastern Meadowlark. The only rarity reported was the sighting of an immature White Ibis in the Louisville area. However, several birds seldom reported for this period were of special interest and included the Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Least Flycatcher and the Swainson's Warbler.

Cormorants through Ibis. — A single Double-crested Cormorant was unusually early at the Falls of the Ohio on June 29 (LR). Three adult Little Blue Heron were also rather early at the Falls on June 30 (AB); and an immature seemed out of place at Lentz's Pond at Louisville on July 27-29 (LR). A few Great Egrets were observed on a small pond in Clark County, Indiana, on July 26 (LR); the birds moved back and forth from the pond to the Falls of the Ohio which is nearby. The pond fills from back-up water from the Ohio River. Black-crowned Night Heron were reported from the Louisville area at Cave Hill Cemetery (AB) and at the Falls of the Ohio, where counts ranged from 37 immatures on July 8 to 81 adults on July 26 (LR). These figures were down slightly from those of last year. However, the high water over the rock ledge in early July may have had some effect on the birds and they moved elsewhere. An immature White Ibis which flew up from Beargrass Creek, Louisville, July 29, was quite unusual (LaS).

Waterfowl. — A pair of Canada Geese was seen with three young at Goshen, Oldham County, June 6 (ALS). Apparently more Canada Geese remained to nest since a total of 72 rested at the edge of the lake in Cave Hill Cemetery on July 31 (ALS, FWS). A single Blue-winged Teal was seen on the Ohio River basin above the dam July 18 (JEl). Wood Ducks had a good year; five broods were observed on the Eastview Breeding Bird Survey (BM), and broods were also observed at Kentucky Lake (JEr).

Hawks. — A nest of the Turkey Vulture, with two eggs, was watched

by Walter Ellison; both eggs hatched, later one chick died and one fledged after 71 days in the nest, which was located 12 miles south, southwest of Louisville (WE); fair numbers were seen during the period near Carrollton, Carroll County and at Bedford, Trimble County (ALS, FWS). A Sharp-shinned Hawk on June 17 in Taylor County (BPB) and one at Bernheim Forest in July (BM) were of interest since the species rarely breeds in Kentucky. Two young Cooper's Hawks fledged in mid-June from a nest at Kentucky Lake area (JEr). We have few records of the Broad-winged Hawk in June and so the one sighted in Taylor County on June 17 was noteworthy (BPB). Fair numbers of American Kestrel were seen: a nest with three young was reported in Louisville (HO).

Galliformes through Terns. — Bobwhites were down in numbers as evidenced on breeding counts and other observations. A single Piping Plover, a rare transient, was reported at the Fish Hatchery at Frankfort, July 22, and is possibly the first record for Franklin County (JEl). Few shorebirds were reported. A nest of the American Woodcock was discovered one mile south of Carlisle in Nicholas County on April 12; it contained four eggs on April 16 and was thought to be successful (WK). No early reports of shorebirds were received. Least Sandpipers were first reported on July 15 when 12 birds were seen in the Louisville area (LR). The usual Yellowlegs, Dowitcher and Semipalmated Sandpipers were present at the Falls of the Ohio, with the Western Sandpiper (3) and the Sanderling (6) being the most unusual birds there on June 24 (JEl, DP). A few Caspian Terns were present at the Falls of the Ohio on June 29 (LR) and July 1 (JEl, DP). Black Terns were reported later than usual, first reports at Falls of the Ohio on July 26, with seven birds in the morning (LR) and 58 later in the day (JEl, AB).

Cuckoos through Woodpeckers. — Yellow-billed Cuckoos were thought to be more common than usual at Carlisle, Nicholas County (VK, WK); also "plentiful" in the Bedford area (JY). Black-billed Cuckoos were well distributed at Bedford, Trimble County (JY), and one was present at Louisville, Jefferson County, in the Audubon Hospital area on June 5 (JEl). A nest of Barn Owls in July at Ghent, Carroll County, created much excitement among Louisvillians. The number of young was not determined because of the height of the nest (RB). Another Barn Owl was seen flying across a downtown apartment building at Louisville, July 15 (AB); one was observed in the Bashford Manor area in southeast Louisville (DM, RB). Horned Owls nested again in Cherokee Park (ALS); one young bird was observed out of the nest in another section of Louisville (KWC, VR); also a brood of young at Hamlin, Kentucky, and five were heard calling there on June 15 (JEr). W. Horace Brown suggested that in Shelby County the Horned Owl was taking over the areas previously used by Barred Owls (telephone conversation). A Chuck-will's Widow in Montgomery County, near Levee, July 1, was of interest (DC). A smaller number of Chimney Swifts nested in the writer's chimney this year. Ruby-throated Hummingbirds seemed to be less common in the Louisville area. Belted Kingfishers were in smaller numbers than in previous years (BPB, ALS). The Red-headed Woodpeckers nested successfully in the Ten Broeck section of east Louisville, where the birds have been for many years (ALS); also common in sections of Shelby County (ALS, FWS). The Hairy Wood-

pecker, never common, seemed even more difficult to find than previously. A nest of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker was found in Laurel County on July 17; the birds were feeding young (EL). The nest site was one of those first discovered by Jerome Jackson (*Ky. Warbler*, Vol. 52: 75-80).

Flycatchers through Swallows. — Eastern Phoebes appeared to be scarce this season. A Willow Flycatcher in eastern Wolfe County on June 23 was of special interest (DC). It was exciting news to learn of a singing Least Flycatcher in eastern Wolfe County on June 23 (DC), and one farther east was also singing on June 27 in Elliott County (WG); the latter bird was heard again on July 3 in a grove of black pine (WG). Another unusual bird for the time of year was an Olive-sided Flycatcher in Laurel County, July 7 (verifying documentation received—EL). A pair of Tree Swallows nested at Kentucky Lake (JEr). Bank Swallows were found at Chalk Bluff on the Mississippi, near Columbus, Hickman County, June 13; the population was estimated at 60 birds (JEr). Cliff Swallows seemed to be on the increase in the Glasgow area: 20 nests were found on the Skaggs Creek Bridge, and it was thought that the species nested on all the bridges across the estuaries of the lake (RS); also found in eastern Wolfe County, where one was observed at the underpass of Mountain Parkway on June 23 (DC); and farther eastward, some 22 nests were found at the outlet tower on Grayson Lake (WG). The latter discovery was of great interest since it established the state's most eastern breeding record. Purple Martins were seen migrating in small flocks on July 11 (ALS); a group of 200 were noted on telephone wires on July 30, south of the Louisville airport (DS). The martin colony at Crestwood was down from the past two years; however, the one in downtown Louisville at Stouffer's Inn was up from last year. The nesting box had been moved and may have made the difference (ALS).

Titmice through Thrushes. — There was a considerable drop in the number of Titmice this season in east Louisville; also, few were recorded on the Shelby County Breeding Census (ALS). "More House Wrens than usual" were recorded at Carlisle, Nicholas County (WK), but none nested in the Ten Broeck section where they formerly did (ALS). Bewick's Wrens were unreported with the exception of one at Frenchburg, Montgomery County on July 1 (DC). Carolina Wrens nested at Sandy Hook, Elliott County (WG) and were thought to be "edging back up" in western Kentucky (JEr); occasional birds were recorded from time to time at Hopkins (JH), Christian (PH), and Jefferson (ALS, BPB, AH) Counties, but the species continues to be quite scarce. A single Short-billed Marsh Wren was recorded in the Louisville area on June 2 (BPB). Mockingbirds were definitely down as were Gray Catbirds. Eastern Bluebirds were in low numbers, and breeding censuses indicated only a few birds present.

Cedar Waxwings through Warblers. — Although the Cedar Waxwing is rare in summer, a few breeding pairs were observed in the Louisville area in July (BPB). No one commented on the Loggerhead Shrike since spring; the species was not found in some areas where it previously nested in east Louisville (ALS). Several interesting records of the elusive Swainson's Warbler were reported during June in Floyd, Lee and Menifee Counties (DC et al). Two Blue-winged Warblers were recorded on the

Edmonson Breeding Survey; it had not been recorded on the surveys since 1970 (JEL). A late straggling Magnolia Warbler was present in the Audubon Hospital area in Louisville, June 5 (JEL). Ten Prairie Warblers were recorded on the Edmonson Breeding Bird Survey, June 17, where only three had been found in 1978; it was the highest number recorded on the count in nine years (JEL). A high count (16) was also recorded for the Yellow-breasted Chat on the same census (JEL). A late migrating Northern Waterthrush was seen in Louisville, June 1 (BPB).

Bobolinks through Orioles. — Although Bobolinks were recorded at Goshen on June 6, fewer birds were present than in 1976 and 1977 (ALS). Eastern Meadowlarks were down in Oldham and Jefferson Counties, but fair numbers were present in Shelby County (ALS). No comments were received on the status of the Orchard Oriole, but in the writer's opinion the species showed a marked decrease in Jefferson and Shelby Counties.

Fringillidae. — Although no Blue Grosbeaks were recorded on the Eastview Breeding Bird Survey in Hardin and Breckenridge Counties where nine had been found last year, the following June and July records were reported: one on Edmonson BBS, June 17 (JEL); five on Taylor County BBS, June 17 (BPB); one at Earlington, July 5, 22 and at Clear Creek on July 6, 17, 22, all in Hopkins County (JH). There was a decrease in the number of Rufous-sided Towhees on the Edmonson BBS from 14 in 1977 to four in 1979 (JEL). A Lark Sparrow was seen in Oldham County on June 9 in the same location where it had been observed singing in May (ALS, FWS). The Pine Siskin remained unusually late again this year in the Louisville area: one at a feeder on June 1 (BPB) and at another feeder (different location) on June 9 (KWC). The number of Chipping Sparrows appeared to be down as has been true in recent years; a successful nest of three fledged in Christian County (PH), and a nest was barely started in Edmonson County on May 28 (ALS). Grasshopper Sparrows were up on the Eastview BBS (BM) and on Taylor County BBS (BPB), but in Oldham County numbers continued to be low (ALS). Savannah Sparrows were observed in the same field with Bobolinks at Goshen on June 6 (ALS). Four Henslow's Sparrows were recorded on the Taylor County BBS on June 17 (BPB) and one on the Shelby County BBS, June 17 (ALS, FWS).

Contributors. — (AB) Alan Barron; (RB) Robert Brown; (WB) W. H. Brown; (DC) Dennis Coskren; (KWC) Kathryn W. Clay; (JEL) Jackie Elmore, Sr.; (WE) Walter Ellison; (JEr) Joe Tom Erwin; (WG) William C. Greene, Jr.; (JH) James Hancock; (AH) Anna Deacon Hook; (PH) Phillip Hyatt; (VK) Virginia Kingsolver; (WK) Wendell Kingsolver; (EL) Edwin Larson; (BM) Burt Monroe, Jr.; (HO) Holly Oldham; (BPB) Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.; (DP) Donald Parker; (DM) Dottie Muntan; (LR) Lene Rauth; (VR) Virginia Rommel; (LaS) Lawrence D. Smith; (ALS) Anne L. Stamm; (FWS) Frederick W. Stamm; (RS) Russell Starr; (DS) Donald Summerfield; (JY) John Young. Other abbreviations — (BBS) Breeding Bird Survey.

— 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40222.

**THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
FALL MEETING**

October 5, 6, 7, 1979

The fifty-sixth Annual Fall Meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society was held at the Executive Inn Rivermont in Owensboro, Kentucky on October 5, 6, and 7.

On Friday evening, October 5, the members met at the Owensboro Area Museum, 2829 S. Griffith Avenue with Vice-President Ramon Iles presiding in the absence of President Andrew Uterhart. After welcoming the members and introducing the officers of the Owensboro Chapter, Mr. Iles called on the first speaker for the evening, Dr. Blaine K. Ferrell of Western Kentucky University who presented the findings of his extensive research on the migration of birds and their physiological responses. With the aid of charts and graphs Dr. Ferrell pointed out how daylengths initiate a sequence of events in a bird's life and what role thyroxine plays in the levels of bird activities.

The next speaker, Dr. Pierre Allaire of Lees Junior College brought the audience up-to-date on his 6-year study of birds in strip-mine areas of eastern Kentucky. A series of slides demonstrated the reclamation work done to create rolling topography to attract grassland birds and water impoundments to attract shore and water birds. Dr. Allaire also spoke on the maintenance and management of the grassland habitats, and on the initiation of the bluebird nest box program.

Mr. Iles then announced the sequence of events for the next day, Saturday, October 6.

- 8:00 a.m. three field trips:
- (1) Carpenter and Kingfisher Lakes, with smooth, level walk with some rough wooded areas, with A. L. Powell as leader
 - (2) Wilson's Farm — mostly level fields and woods, led by L. C. Wilson
 - (3) Ben Hawes State Park with golf course and wooded areas, some quite rough and hilly, Joe Ford, leader.
- Noon Lunch as desired
- 2:15 Films of Birds and Bird Life (optional) at the Owensboro Area Museum.
- 4:00 Board of Directors Meeting at the Area Museum
- 6:30 Dinner at the Executive Inn followed by the speaker for the evening Mr. Vernon Kleen of Springfield, Illinois General Business Meeting following the program.

The last speaker, Mr. Joe Ford, Director of the Museum gave a short

history of the Area Museum, established in 1966, and explained its many attractions and contributions to education and to the public in general, 32 organizations of the area holding their monthly meetings at the museum. The meeting ended with a guided tour of the museum at 9:00.

In spite of the dire predictions of the weather bureau for a drizzly cold Saturday morning, at 8:00 a.m. bright sunshine cheered the three groups of "bird watchers" fanning out to the prescribed areas for the scheduled field trips. Disappointedly, the brisk wind kept the observed count to only 75 species.

At the end of the evening dinner at the Executive Inn Dr. Andrew Uterhart, President, introduced the speaker of the evening, Mr. Vernon Kleen, associated for the past ten years with the Division of Wildlife Resources, Illinois Department of Conservation, Springfield, Illinois whose topic was Illinois' Nongame Program. Although many birds are on the protected list, he stated, a very small percent of them are nongame birds, the same holding true of the mammals. Mr. Kleen's work includes the determining of the present abundance and distribution of all nongame birds through the study of breeding, winter, migratory and urban populations citing that the Breeding Bird Survey, the B.B. Atlas Winter Bird Survey and the Christmas Count are helpful resources. He listed several reasons for dwindling populations due mostly to destruction of needed areas for nesting territories by encroaching civilization, to clean farming, close grazing and drainage. He encouraged the K.O.S. members to investigate and become interested in the Nongame Wildlife study and invited all to attend the Symposium on November 3 at the Illinois Valley Community College at Oglesby, Illinois, the purpose of the Symposium being designed to acquaint conservationists with the nature, importance, objectives, and outlook of non-game management.

At the General Business Meeting following, Dr. Uterhart announced the times and places for the Sunday morning fieldtrips, namely Carpenter's Lake and Wilson's Farm.

The Spring Meeting will be held at Barren River State Park on April 25, 26, and 27 and the Fall Meeting of 1980 will be at Natural Bridge in the eastern part of Kentucky, dates to be determined definitely later, but tentatively to be the last week of September or the first or the second week of October. Since there are no facilities for a membership dinner at Natural Bridge, the usual Saturday evening meal will be dispensed with but the members will meet later for the program.

The Board of Directors voted to raise the registration fee from the present \$1.00 to \$2.00. Dr. Uterhart then called for the Treasurer's report which was given by Mrs. Ann Stamm, acting Treasurer.

Mrs. Stamm reminded the members to send in the Nesting Record Cards as soon as possible.

Dr. Herb Shadowen, editor of *The Kentucky Warbler* encouraged more members to participate in the Christmas Count, obtaining the forms for

recording the count from him. He announced that the Spring Count had been dropped due to too many inaccuracies, this count being replaced by the Four Season Report compiled by Mrs. Anne Stamm. Dr. Shadowen also asked that any rare and endangered species be reported to Mrs. Stamm.

The Nominating Committee presented the following list of candidates for offices in the K.O.S. for the coming year:-

Mr. Ramon Iles, President
 Dr. Pierre Allaire, Vice-President
 Mr. John Krull, Corresponding Secretary - Treasurer
 Sister Casimir Czurlis, Recording Secretary
 New Councillors—
 Dr. Blaine Ferrell
 Barry Howard

It was moved and seconded that the list of candidates be accepted by acclamation.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
 Sister Casimir Czurlis
 Recording Secretary

BIRDS REPORTED ON FIELD TRIPS AT THE FALL MEETING AT OWENSBORO

October 6, 7, 1979

Pied-billed Grebe, Blue-winged Teal, American Widgeon, Wood Duck, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Marsh Hawk, American Kestrel, Killdeer, Herring Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-billed Cuckoo, Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Common Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Wood Pewee, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, House Wren, Carolina Wren, Mockingbird, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, American Robin, Hermit Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Starling, Philadelphia Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Palm Warbler, Ovenbird, Wilson's Warbler, House Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Henslow's Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow. — Total Species: 80.

ATTENDANCE AT THE SPRING MEETING, 1979

BOWLING GREEN: Dr. and Mrs. Blaine Ferrell, Mike Jones, William and Ruth Mathes, Dr. and Mrs. H. E. Shadowen.

CADIZ: Sara Combest.

CARLISLE: Dr. and Mrs. Wendell Kingsolver.

DANVILLE: Dr. and Mrs. Harry Caldwell.

FRANKFORT: Howard and Jean Jones.

GEORGETOWN: Mr. and Mrs. Glen Wells.

HENDERSON: Ben R. Burnley, Ronald G. Dodson.

JACKSON: Dr. and Mrs. Pierre Allaire.

LEXINGTON: Dennis and Faith Coskren, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Flynn, Mary Flynn, Denise McCray, Dr. Andrew Uterhart.

LOUISVILLE: Dr. and Mrs. Herbert Clay, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Frederick W. and Anne Stamm.

MACEO: A. L. and Millie Powell.

MADISONVILLE: Thelma Gentry, James W. Hancock, Allen and Virginia Morgan, Edwin and Naomi Trather.

MURRAY: Mr. and Mrs. Paul Sturm.

OWENSBORO: Lois Black, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bowne, Ted Bowne, Sister Casimir Czurlis, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Ford, Mary L. Greenwell, Mr. and Mrs. Ramon Iles, Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Keller, Emogene Lashbrook, William T. Perkins, Anna M. Potts, Mr. and Mrs. George Ray, Rev. and Mrs. Wallace Renner, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Radzelovage, Wynema Sims, Edith Warren, Julian and Donna Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Wilson.

KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Report of the Treasurer

For the Fiscal Year Ending October 1, 1979

GENERAL FUND

Bank Balance as of September 30, 1978		\$1,204.54
Receipts		
Membership Dues	\$1,624.00	
Interest Income:		
Certificates (2) of Deposit (Endowment Fund)	136.20	
Colonial Federal Savings & Loan Assoc.		
Certificate (1) of Deposit (Gordon Wilson Fund)	34.05	
Sale of Checklists, Occurrences, etc.	53.66	
Spring Meeting	485.00	
Fall Meeting	814.00	3,146.91
Total Receipts		<u>\$4,351.45</u>
Disbursements		
Printing: Kentucky Warbler, 4 issues	\$1,656.23	
Supplies: Envelopes, labels, etc.	180.52	
Postage: Bulk Mail & Mailing Permit	134.05	
Expenses — Fall Meeting	719.16	
Expenses — Spring Meeting	423.00	
Safety Deposit Bank Rental	9.75	
Corporation Filing Fee	2.00	
Nature Conservancy Dues	30.00	
Life Memberships (3) to Endowment Fund	150.00	
(Jefferson Federal Savings & Loan Assoc.)		
Transfer of Interest to Gordon Wilson Fund	34.05	3,338.76
Balance, First National Bank, Louisville, Kentucky ...		<u>\$1,012.69</u>

ENDOWMENT FUND

Balance in Savings Account, Jefferson Federal Savings & Loan Assoc., Louisville, Kentucky	\$1,601.61	
Certificates (2) of Deposit, Colonial Federal Savings & Loan Assoc., Louisville, Kentucky	2,000.00	
		<u>\$3,601.61</u>
Receipts		
Interest Income:		
Certificate, Colonial Federal	136.20	
Savings Account, Jefferson Federal (5 quarters) ..	116.69	
Life Memberships (3) (Travis, Kingsolver, Shadowen) ..	150.00	
Total Receipts		<u>402.89</u>
		<u>\$4,004.50</u>

Disbursements	
Transfer of Interest on Certificate to General Fund	136.20
Total Disbursements	<u>136.20</u>
	\$3,868.30
Balance in Endowment Fund, October 1, 1979:	
Savings Account, Jefferson Federal	1,868.30
Certificates (2) Colonial Federal	2,000.00
Total	<u>\$3,868.30</u>

THE GORDON WILSON FUND FOR ORNITHOLOGY

Balance in Savings Account, Greater Louisville First Federal Savings & Loan Assoc., Sept. 30, 1978	\$ 886.82	
Certificate of Deposit (1) Colonial Federal Savings & Loan Assoc.	1,000.00	1,886.82
Receipts		
Interest on Savings Account	49.07	
Interest on Certificate of Deposit	68.10	117.17
Fund Balance, October 1, 1979		<u>\$2,003.99</u>
Balance in Savings Account, Greater Louisville Savings & Loan Assoc.		1,003.99
Certificate, Colonial Federal Savings & Loan Assoc.		1,000.00
		<u>\$2,003.99</u>

BALANCE SHEET

October 1, 1979

Assets:	
Cash, First National Bank, Louisville, Kentucky	\$1,012.69
Savings Account, Jefferson Federal Savings & Loan Assoc.	1,868.30
Certificates (2), Endowment Fund, Colonial Federal Savings & Loan Association	2,000.00
Certificate (1), Gordon Wilson Fund, Colonial Federal Savings & Loan Association	1,000.00
Savings Account, Gordon Wilson Fund for Ornithology, Greater Louisville Savings & Loan Assoc.	1,003.99
Total Assets	<u>\$6,884.98</u>
Net Worth, October 1, 1979	\$6,884.98

Anne L. Stamm, Treasurer

AUDITOR'S REPORT

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

October 15, 1979

The books of the Kentucky Ornithological Society, for the fiscal year ending October 1, 1979, were audited and found to be correct. The cash in the General Fund was reconciled with the bank balance in the First National Bank of Louisville, Louisville, Kentucky, and found to be in agreement.

The Endowment Fund and the Gordon Wilson Fund for Ornithology were checked and found to be correct.

Anne Stamm is to be commended for her work as treasurer of the Society.

Louis H. Pieper, Auditor

FIELD NOTES

NEWLY FOUND LOCALITIES FOR SWAINSON'S WARBLER IN EASTERN KENTUCKY

Swainson's Warbler (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*) is a secretive, obscurely colored, and rarely detected warbler in Kentucky. It is remarkable for the existence of two distinct populations, separated both geographically and ecologically. The first-known population is found primarily in bottomland southern swamps, especially in growths of giant cane (*Arundinaria gigantea*). The second, later-discovered population is in southern mountains, in thick tangles of rhododendron (*Rhododendron* spp.). Both populations are known in Kentucky. The first is in western Kentucky; most birds are in the western half of the Jackson Purchase, but a few scattered records exist eastward to Mammoth Cave, and one was reported in June, 1937, from Bullitt County. (These records and all other earlier Kentucky records are taken from Mengel's *Birds of Kentucky*, 1965). The second population has been reported with certainty only from easternmost Kentucky, Black Mountain in Harlan County and on the Virginia line near Elkhorn City, Pike County. There is a possible sight record from Lewis County, and Swainson's Warbler has been recorded just across from northeastern Kentucky in Lawrence County, Ohio and near Huntington, West Virginia. Mengel states that much search by himself and others had failed to discover the bird in seemingly suitable habitat in eastern Kentucky, and that "it seems probable that the apparent present-day discontinuity in the distribution of the species in Kentucky is real rather than illusory."

In light of the above, recent records of Swainson's Warblers within the postulated discontinuity are of interest. The first records were in May, 1977. I heard a singing male on May 19 along the North Fork of the Kentucky River in northeasternmost Lee County. The habitat was floodplain forest on a steep embankment of alluvium with a heavy growth of

giant cane. No rhododendron was present, although it grew on nearby hillsides. The bird was not seen; however, I am familiar with the song and also with the similar songs of the Hooded Warbler (*Wilsonia citrina*) and Louisiana Waterthrush (*Seiris motacilla*), both of which were also singing nearby. In May and June, 1977 Bob Morris and Bill Woodward of Lexington, Kentucky saw and heard another singing male in a rhododendron tangle along the Whittleton Arch Trail, Natural Bridge State Park, in Powell County.

I know of no records for 1978, but 1979 brought several. The Kentucky Audubon Society (Lexington) held a field trip on the first weekend in June at the Jenny Wiley State Park, Floyd County. Near the lodge a singing male Swainson's was seen by several field trip participants, including Bob Morris, Betty Maxson, and Algie Reece. The habitat was rhododendron. Later that month Bob Morris saw another singing male in cane along Indian Creek, Red River gorge, Menifee County. On June 16, 1979 I canoed down the North Fork of the Kentucky River from northeasternmost Lee County to near Beattyville (about 16 river miles), specifically to search for Swainson's Warbler, where I had heard it two years earlier. I heard three singing birds along one short stretch of the river just where I had heard the earlier bird; all were in or near cane. None of the birds were seen, and no others were heard elsewhere along the river.

The records in Lee, Powell, and Menifee Counties extend the range of Swainson's Warbler some 60-odd miles northwest from Black Mountain and 75 miles from Elkhorn City. Together with the Jenny Wiley bird, they help to fill the gap in the Kentucky range of Swainson's Warbler. Perhaps of greater interest is the association of some birds from the mountain population (presumably!) with the cane habitat characteristic of the lowland population.

I would guess that Swainson's Warbler is rare and local in eastern Kentucky, but much more widely distributed than has been thought. Discovery of the bird requires that an observer familiar with the song (loud and distinctive) stumble upon one of the thinly scattered pairs or (?) colonies. — DENNIS COSKREN, 849 Lynn Drive, Lexington 40504.

(Editor's Note: There is also a record for eastern Kentucky on May 7, 1961 of a singing bird in a rhododendron thicket, six miles from Whitesburg, Letcher County, by Edith Clark. She also mentioned one reported by Dr. Gordon Meade in Pikeville on June 19, 1961 (*Ky. Warbler*, Vol. 38:67-68, 1962).

BLUE GROSBEAK IN FAYETTE COUNTY

On the morning of June 16, 1979 I saw a male Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*) at Raven Run Nature Sanctuary in Fayette County. The bird was downhill from the visitor center in an area covered by scattered trees 10 to 15 feet tall and by a dense growth of tall herbs. It remained in this area and sang almost continuously for about five minutes, then flew up the opposite hillside to a stand of tall black locust trees (*Robinia pseudo-acacia*) and continued to sing. I found a Blue Grosbeak, presumably the same bird, singing in the same area on June 17 and June 23.

I have not been able to find any record of the Blue Grosbeak occurring as far east in Kentucky as Fayette County. — JARVIS HUDSON, 1341 Royalty Court, Lexington, 40504.

A FOLLOW-UP OF NESTING RED-COCKADED WOODPECKERS IN LAUREL COUNTY

On June 19, 1976 Jackson, Weeks, and Shindala found Red-cockaded Woodpeckers (*Dendrocopos borealis*) in Laurel County, Kentucky and reported the locations of three nest cavities in The Kentucky Warbler, Vol. 52, No. 4, November, 1976. I visited the areas on July 7, 1979 and found one pair of Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and two of the nest cavities. I arrived at the easternmost cavity three between highway markers 5 and 6 at 6:00 a.m. It contained young which could be heard each time one of the adults entered the cavity. Only two adults were at this location. I could not find the other tree 0.7 miles west of the first one. There were no woodpeckers around the cavity tree on Cold Hill Road from 9:15 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. — EDWIN LARSON, 93 Arcadia, Lakeside Park, 41017.

A SIGHTING OF AN OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER IN LAUREL COUNTY IN JULY

On July 7, 1979 at 8:30 a.m. I was birding along Cold Hill Road in Laurel County, Kentucky looking for Red-cockaded Woodpeckers. While at a large clearing once occupied by a lumber mill I noticed a flycatcher sitting in a dead tree at the edge. It was larger than an Eastern Wood Pewee perched in the same tree and showed distinguishing marks characteristic of an Olive-sided Flycatcher (*Nuttallornis borealis*). I observed it for 15 minutes from twenty feet while it remained largely stationary with occasional flights to various perches. It had a heavier head and bill than the Pewee. The dark sides of breast were very noticeable, which contrasted with the white throat. There was white down the center of the breast. There were white feathers around the wings but it lacked the definite white tufts. It was not calling at the time. The sky was slightly overcast. The temperature was 64°F and wind 0-5 mph. The light was good. — EDWIN LARSON, 93 Arcadia, Lakeside Park, 41017.

NEWS AND VIEWS

KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP AWARDS

Membership awards in the Kentucky Ornithological Society are available for 1980 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 can send nominations to Pierre N. Allaire, Department of Science and Mathematics, Lees Jr. College, Jackson, Ky. 41339. Nominees will be forwarded an application and asked for one letter of recommendation. The deadline for applying is April 1, 1980. The membership award provides a one-year gratis membership in the Kentucky Ornithological Society. Awardees will be officially announced at the Spring Meeting.

HOUSE FINCH REPORT

A. L. Whitt, Jr. of Richmond is requesting that members report any sightings of House Finches so that we may determine if they are becoming established in Kentucky. He observed a House Finch at his feeder on November 6, 1979.