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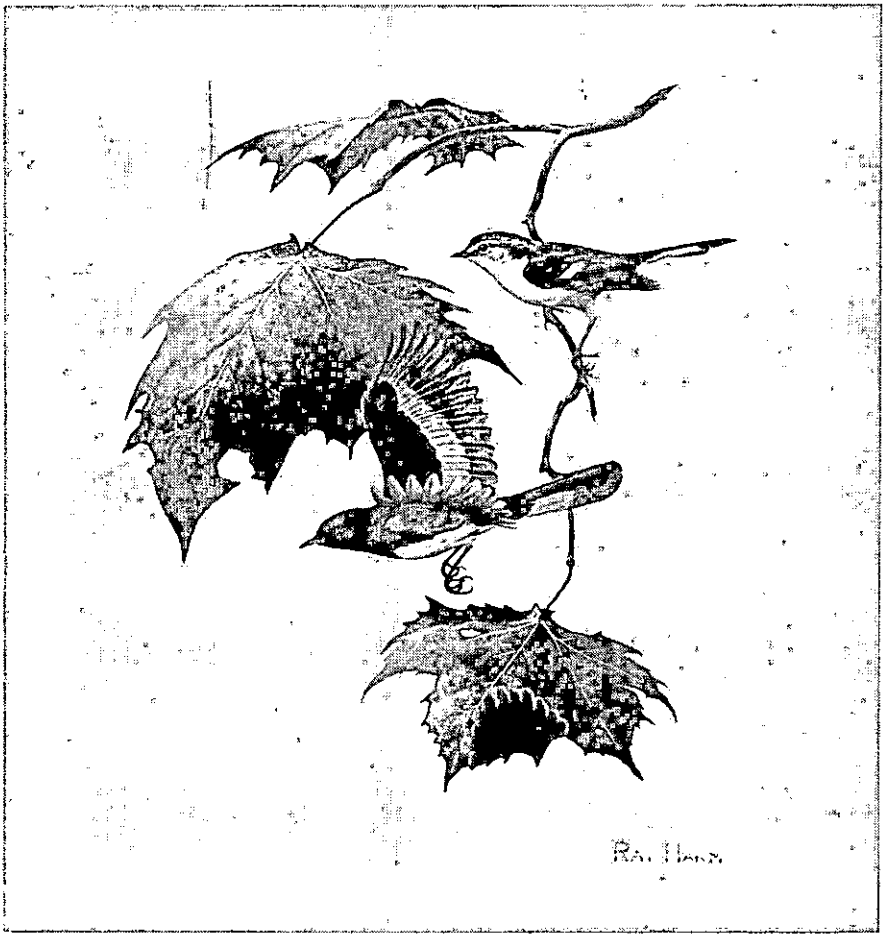

IN THIS ISSUE

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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OUR COVER

The reproduction of the American Redstart is another example of the excellent work of our staff artist, Ray Harm.

PREDICTING OVENBIRD OCCURRENCE IN EASTERN KENTUCKY FORESTS

WILLIAM C. MCCOMB AND JOHN J. MORIARTY

Ovenbirds (*Seiurus aurocapillus* L.) are common summer residents of the Cumberland Plateau (Mengel 1965). Recent studies have indicated that this species prefers mature, contiguous forests and that they are adversely affected by habitat fragmentation (Robbins 1979, Stauffer and Best 1980, and Crawford et al. 1981). Allaire (1978) presented data which indicated adverse effects of surface mining on Ovenbird occurrence. This fragmentation must be of a specific degree, and surrounding areas must not be dominated by woody vegetation. Freedman et al. (1981), Maurer et al. (1981), and McComb and Rumsey *(in prep.)* found Ovenbirds occurring along edges of selectively cut, herbicide treated, and clear-cut forests in which the width of the disturbed area was less than 60 m, and the area was dominated by woody vegetation.

As surface mining continues in eastern Kentucky, fragmentation of the forest environment will increase unless reclamation plans include reforestation efforts, but most reclaimed areas are currently seeded to grasses and herbaceous species. Consequently, it seems that Ovenbird populations will be adversely affected over large areas of eastern Kentucky in the near future. Robbins (1979) estimated that 2,650 ha of contiguous forest was needed to maintain viable breeding populations of Ovenbirds in the central Appalachians. It is important that areas of contiguous forest at least this size be maintained. It is also important that these forests maintain habitat conditions important to Ovenbird occurrence.

The objective of our study was to develop a simple predictive model which could be used to determine if Ovenbirds could exist in such a given contiguous forest, and if they could exist there, then provide an estimate of the approximate density.

STUDY AREA AND METHODS

Three watersheds in the University of Kentucky's Robinson Forest were chosen for study: Snag Ridge Fork, Falling Rock, and Bucklick. Watersheds were similar in vegetation. Ridges were dominated by shortleaf pine *(Pinus echinata)*, pitch pine *(Pinus rigida)*, chestnut oak *(Quercus prinus)*, and scarlet oak *(Q. coccinea)*; south-facing slopes by hickories (*Carya* spp.), white oak *(Q. alba)*, black oak *(Q. velutina)*, and sourwood *(Oxydendrum arboreum)*; and north-facing slopes by eastern hemlock *(Tsuga canadensis)*, American beech *(Fagus grandifolia)*, northern red oak *(Q. rubra)*, cucumbertree *(Magnolia acuminata)*, and yellow-poplar *(Liriodendron tulipifera)*. Bucklick and Falling Rock were dominated by mature trees, but few small openings in the canopy were caused by previous windthrow and tree girdling.

Data for model development were collected in Snag Ridge Fork. This area contained diverse stages of forest development following herbicide application and clearcutting. No treated area was greater than 0.4-ha and treated areas were surrounded by mature forest. For a detailed description of these plots refer to McComb and Rumsey (1981). Thirteen 10-

minute visits were made to 0.4-ha plots in each of six habitat types (mature forest, four levels of herbicide application, and clearcutting) on each of a north-facing, south-facing and ridge-top site from 20 March to 15 June 1980 and 1981. Seven morning and six evening visits were made and all singing Ovenbirds in each 0.4-ha plot were recorded.

Thirty habitat characteristics were measured at 15 stations through the center of each 0.4-ha plot in May 1980. Mean values for each variable were used to characterize the plot. Habitat variables included: tree characteristics, snag characteristics, ground cover (logs, rocks, understory characteristics), stump characteristics, slope, distance to water, and foliage height diversity (McComb and Rumsey 1981). A stepwise regression procedure was used to develop a regression model to predict Ovenbird occurrence upon habitat variables.

Ovenbird densities were determined on Bucklick and Falling Rock watersheds from April to June 1981. Birds were counted three times in the morning and three times in the evening on each area within a 20-ha grid system and utilized methods similar to those described by Mikol (1980). Habitat variables described earlier were measured at 50 locations on each watershed in June 1981. Mean values were used to characterize each watershed, and were used to test the model developed from the Snag Ridge Fork data.

RESULTS

A total of 15 territorial Ovenbirds was recorded on the Snag Ridge Fork plots. A regression model which utilized nine habitat variables to predict Ovenbird density (R^2=95.6) was developed:

Density = 3.2-3.7 (tree density/4m^2)-0.08 (tree diameter,cm)+0.04 (leaf cover,%)-0.06 (midstory cover,%)+0.14 (distance to a log,m)-0.04 (distance to water,m)+0.02 (basal area, m^2/ha)+0.32 (log diameter,cm)-0.83 (understory diversity, Shannon-Weaver formula).

This model predicted density per 0.4-ha per 13 visits, so a correction factor was needed to convert estimates to a standard:

Ovenbirds, pairs per 20 ha = estimated density ÷ 13 x 2.47 x 20.

This resulted in an estimate of 15.2 Ovenbirds on each of Bucklick and Falling Rock. These estimates were 5.3 and 8.2 individuals too high, seemingly unacceptable, but several factors must be kept in mind. First, estimates of breeding bird densities by counts are conservative and it is possible that some birds were missed. Second, the model was developed in more diverse habitats than it was tested, so consistent predictions for the two mature forest watersheds should be expected. Finally, the utility of a nine-variable model is questionable at best. A simple model would be more useful though perhaps less accurate than the above model.

A four-variable model was then developed (R^2=61.4):

Density = 2.95-0.003 (distance to water,m)+0.03 (basal area, m^2/ha) +0.15 (log diameter,cm)-0.92 (understory diversity).

Density/20ha = estimated density ÷ 13 x 2.47 x 20.

This model resulted in more accurate prediction of Ovenbird density based on individuals observed at Bucklick and Falling Rock. The model underestimated density at Bucklick by 1.3 individuals and overestimated density at Falling Rock by 2.1 individuals (Table 1).

Hypothetical data were generated for a four-year-old clearcut based on the data of McComb and Rumsey (1981). Intermediate values were then estimated for 15- and 30-year-old stands (Table 1). The model provided a good estimate of the relative abundance of Ovenbirds in each habitat. Density in the four-year-old stand was underestimated by 0.6 pairs. In the 15-year-old stand our model overestimated density by 0.9 pairs based on Shugart et al.'s (1978) reported density of 2.2 pairs/20 ha in a young Appalachian hardwood forest. Overestimation was greater in the 30-year-old stand (medium-aged) than in the 15-year-old stand, but this may be a result more of the estimated habitat characteristics for the 30-year-old stand than of the ability of the model to predict densities. Deviations from the predictions of the model will occur in young stands with many large logs (logs not removed after clearcutting) or with low understory diversity (resulting from soil compaction during logging, recent herbicide application, talus, etc.). Young mixed hardwood stands normally have small diameter logs and high understory diversity.

DISCUSSION

Based on the four-variable model, an investigator or wildlife manager could take a random sample of a contiguous forest area and collect data on distance to water, basal area, log diameter, and understory diversity and predict if Ovenbirds would occur on that area and also provide an estimate of relative density. Average distance to water is easily measured from topographic maps before field work begins. Twenty to 40 points should be established in watershed (depending on its size), and diameter of the nearest log and basal area determined with a meter stick and wedge prism, respectively. The only time-consuming variable which must be determined is understory diversity. A 4-m^2 plot should be established at each point and the number of individuals of each species recorded. Then the Shannon-Weaver formula can be applied to estimate diversity (Cox 1976).

Model development will continue by incorporating data from Bucklick and Falling Rock into the model. This model in turn must be tested and as additional data are incorporated into the model, the predictive power should increase.

The habitat variables selected by the four-variable model reflect several important aspects of Ovenbird habitat. Smith (1977) reported that mesic conditions are important to Ovenbirds in Arkansas, hence the negative relationship in the model with distance to water. The importance of high basal area in the model is a result of a mature forest and it is important to Ovenbird occurrence (Crawford et al. 1981). Log characteristics probably reflect the ground-nesting habit of the species, and low understory diversity is probably a result of high crown and midstory cover resulting in a sparse, open understory composed of only a few shade tolerant species.

Several points must be made before recommending use of this model in eastern Kentucky. First, Robbins (1979) found no Ovenbirds in stands less than 11 ha in size, so this model should be used only in forest stands of this size or larger. Second, Ovenbird density varies curvilinearly with stand size up to 2,650-ha (Robbins 1979), so density estimates from the model should be consistently higher than actual density in stands less than 2,650-ha. Third, the model should not be applied to young stands with

large-diameter logs or with low understory diversity. Finally, use of this model should be restricted to eastern Kentucky in areas similar in topography and floral composition to that of Robinson Forest. Additional testing may increase its ability to predict numbers of individuals, but in its present form it appears to allow prediction of occurrence versus absence and prediction of relative abundance.

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Table 1. Actual and predicted Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus* L.) densities in stands of various ages in eastern Kentucky.

Habitat Variable	*Stand Age (years)*				
	4[1]	15[2]	30[2]	60[3]	60[4]
Distance to water (m)	60	60	60	65	59
Basal area (22/ha)	9.0	13.0	16.0	17.0	22.4
Log Diameter (cm)	10.0	18.0	22.0	23.7	23.4
Understory Diversity (H')	5.6	5.5	5.3	5.25	5.25
Predicted Ovenbird Density (pairs/20 ha)	-0.6	3.1	6.4	7.9	8.4
Actual Ovenbird Density (pairs/20 ha)	0[5]	2.2[6]	3.4[6]	9.9	7.0

[1]hypothetical data for habitat following a commercial clearcut; based on McComb and Rumsey (1981).
[2]hypothetical data.
[3]Bucklick Watershed, actual data, except understory diversity.
[4]Falling Rock Watershed, actual data, except understory diversity.
[5]Snag Ridge Fork data.
[6]From Shugart et al. (1978).

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THE WINTER SEASON OF 1981-82

ANNE L. STAMM

The mild weather of the fall continued through December and into the first week of January in much of the state. From then on it was consistently cold until the last week of February, but with less snow cover than normal. A severe cold spell occurred on January 17 and dropped temperatures from 10 to 15 degrees below zero. The state also experienced freezing rain and sleet storms on January 18, February 8 and 9, which encased tree limbs and shrubs and did much damage. This weather condition brought such species as Tree Sparrows and Rusty Blackbirds to feeding stations. A warming trend developed around February 20, and Canada Geese were noted moving northward and a few shorebirds began to appear from the south.

As already published and commented on in the Mid-winter Bird Counts, a few species remained well beyond usual departure dates. However, the January weather brought a number of northern gulls such as Glaucous and Thayer's. Observers were disappointed at the few — almost absent — Evening Grosbeaks. A few Crossbills appeared, but the species which drew the most comment was probably the House Finch.

Loons through Herons — The majority of the Common Loons left before the Christmas Bird Counts, but two were still present in January: one at Richmond, January 2 (RA) and one at Hopkinsville, January 3 (KH). Horned Grebe were scarce and none were recorded at Madisonville (JH). Pied-billed Grebe were also scarce as compared to last year. The Great Blue Heron was more noticeable in Hickman and Livingston counties (MM); fewer appeared at Hopson Bay in the Canton area (LSt); 12 at Ballard County, January 29 (BPB); one at West Point, January 29 (S. FS, DS); 12 to 16 at Clark Fish Hatchery, January 8 through February (FB); recorded on nine CBC's, but on the whole numbers were below last year (M.ob.) A late record for the Great Egret was established at Bowling Green, December 12 (TD *fide* HS). A single Black-crowned Night Heron was seen at Louisville until the first week of January (BPB).

Waterfowl — Six Whistling Swans were observed flying over Hayes Kennedy Park, Louisville, December 26 (BM). A flock of 78 Canada Geese was seen flying south over east Louisville on January 26 (FS, S); numbers peaked at Ballard Waterfowl Management Area (hereafter BWMA) on January 20, with 80,000 (TY). The northward migration was noted on February 21 when some "three dozen" flocks of 100 each moved over Cadiz during the morning hours (LSt). Two White-fronted Geese were at BWMA, January 29 (AB). A flock of *500* Snow Geese flew over south central Louisville, December 5 (BS) and peaked at BWMA on January 20 with 8,000 (TY). A Richardson race of the Canada Goose was discovered on a lake at the Louisville Zoological Gardens, January 13, where it remained for some time (NS *fide* Robert Bean). Ducks were rather scarce. Fewer Canvasback were noted. Four Greater Scaup were at Shippingport Island, December 5 (LS, S, BBC); eight on the Ohio River, Louisville, on several occasions, February 13-16 (LR) and two to 20 along the Ohio River, Louisville, February 20 (BPB). The Common Goldeneye appeared on six CBC's with numbers from one to 32, but 200 were counted on Kentucky Lake, January 30-31 (BPB). The only White-winged Scoters reported were the two at Kentucky Lake, January 28 and 30 (AB, BPB), Ruddy Ducks were in much lower numbers at Lake Pewee than in previous years (JH). One hundred and five Hooded Mergansers were sighted at Land Between the Lakes, December 19 (CP); and two, possibly early migrants, appeared at Lentz's pond, Louisville, February 27 (DN). A few Common Mergansers were noted: one at Rock Haven, December 20 (BBC); one at West Point, January 29 (S. FS, DS); four at Green River Lake, February 14 (JEl) and 11 at LBL, December 19 (CP).

Falconiformes — The sighting of 119 Turkey Vultures and 19 Black Vultures at Glasgow, December 27 seemed noteworthy (WM) as were the 15 Black Vultures at Green River Lake, February 14 (JEl). Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were reported in small numbers on various occasions (M.ob.) Red-tailed Hawks were found in good numbers and were above last year's figures. Red-shouldered Hawks were slightly better than last year but still scarce (M.ob.). A Harlan's Hawk was seen at Shepherdsville, December 4 (AB). There were some conflicting reports on the Rough-legged Hawk and although the species was reported from Murray to Morehead, numbers on the whole were down. On the Bald Eagle Survey January 2-16 the final tally was 142 — an increase over 1981 results (JD). Also, three Golden Eagles were encountered (JD).

Bobwhite through Coots — Bobwhite were up slightly in most areas, but were scarce in Bedford (JY). American Coots were down from previous years at Madisonville (JH).

Woodcock through Gulls — American Woodcock were first heard 'peenting" at Eubank, February 17 (JEl) and the following day at Fern Creek (DSu). A Greater and a Lesser Yellowleg were present in western Kentucky off Hwy. 1281, February 20 (PS). This was a good winter for gulls. Glaucous Gulls appeared at a number of locations: singles at West Point, January 9 (S. FS, DS); and Falls of the Ohio, January 11 (BPB); an adult and five to six immatures at Kentucky Lake, Paducah and Smithland Dam, January 28-31 (AB, BPB) and two adults and four immatures at Kentucky and Barkley Lakes, February 7 (AB, BPB, DC, DN, M. Medley); one flying over Shippingport Island, February 23 (S, FS). A Lesser Black-backed Gull at Kentucky Dam, January 30-31 was extraordinary — bird photographed (BPB, AB). Herring Gulls were more numerous this winter. Flocks of 300 to 600 were noted at Falls of the Ohio (LR, DN, S, FS, BPB) and an estimated 3750 to 5000 at Kentucky and Barkley Lakes (BPB, AB). A number of Thayer's Gulls were reported: one at Kentucky Lake, December 30 (BPB, AB), one at Markland Dam, January 8 and thought to be the same bird as observed at the Falls of the Ohio in November, since there was a missing primary feather in the left wing (BPB); eight to twelve (six of them immatures) at Kentucky Lake and Smithland Dam area, January 28-31 (AB, BPB) and 10-12 at Kentucky and Barkley Lake, February 7 (BPB, AB, DC, DN, M. Medley). Since immature Thayer's Gulls may often be confused with the two closely related species, Herring Gull and Iceland Gull, judicious collecting of specimens seems desirable. The two Caspian Terns along the Ohio River at Louisville, December 20 were unusual (MiS, DM, VR).

Mourning Doves through Woodpeckers — Although the Mourning Dove was down at Bedford (JY), it was present in fair numbers in most areas. A Barn Owl was reported near Danville, Boyle County, January 17 (JEl and Diane Elmore). A Long-eared Owl made a surprise appearance in a Louisville city yard and remained from January 1 through February 23 (RB). A few Short-eared Owls were reported: singles at two locations in Boyle County, January 9 (DC, R. Morris) and at Lexington, Fayette County (MS *fide* DC) during last week of January; three to five in Breathitt County during the period (PA). Red-headed Woodpeckers were fairly widespread, and three in Rowan County were the first observed there in four years (FB). Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were up this winter, especially at Louisville and Mammoth Cave National Park. The Downy Woodpecker was less common at Fort Wright, while the Hairy Woodpecker was up in numbers (EG).

Flycatchers through Wrens — The single Eastern Phoebes recorded in Jackson County, February 24 (DC) and in Bullitt County, February 28 (JB) were most likely early migrants. Horned Larks were present in good numbers in most areas from mid-December to mid-February; one leccistic bird was seen in Shelby County, January 14 (BPB). A Crow roost with an estimated 10,000 birds was seen in southwest Lexington in December (DC). Red-breasted Nuthatches were common and widespread. A pair of Bewick's Wrens was again observed in the Nicholasville area (DC). Caro-

lina Wrens improved some but populations were not up to pre-1977 levels (M.ob.). A single Long-billed Marsh Wren lingered at Louisville until December 8 (AB).

Thrashers through Bluebirds — As usual, small numbers of Brown Thrashers were seen in late December all across the state and singles were found at two Louisville feeding stations in mid-January (S, BPB). American Robins were not as common as last year but were present in good numbers in most areas, with the exception of Bedford, where they were down 75% (JY). Hermit Thrushes were found in higher numbers than usual. There was a modest increase in the Eastern Bluebird in Rowan County (FB) and the CBC's indicated much improvement, yet there was some concern in some areas.

Kinglets through Warblers — It was encouraging to note the increase in Golden-crowned Kinglets. The Ruby-crowned Kinglet remained in low numbers but showed some improvement. A Water Pipit was seen feeding with Horned Larks on a Louisville farm, January 15 (BPB). Cedar Waxwings were present in good numbers in late December, January and February, with a maximum of 400+ at Pulaski County Park, January 3 (JEl). Reports of single Loggerhead Shrikes were received from Trimble (JY), Adair, Casey, Pulaski, Taylor (JEl) and Oldham (*fide* CG) counties; also found in 17 other counties (CBC). Beside the usual wintering Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers, which were more numerous than last year, especially in the heavily forested areas such as Mammoth Cave National Park, Otter Creek, and Bernheim Forest, there were a few interesting late occurrences: an Orange-crowned Warbler at Murray, December 19 (MM & J. Erwin *fide* CP); Common Yellowthroat, December 27 at Otter Creek (BPB, D. Knopf); and *20* Palm Warblers in the Cave Run Lake area, January 8 (FB).

House Sparrow through Blackbirds — A male House Sparrow was observed beginning nest construction at Fort Wright, February 15 (EG). The Eastern Meadowlark was up slightly in some areas, but remained in low numbers in Louisville (S), Frankfort (HJ), Madisonville (JH), and Bedford (JY). The blackbird roost, east of Somerset, which was reported in the fall, broke up in January and thereafter blackbirds were difficult to find in that area until late February (JEl). Another large roost, west of Richmond, with an estimated 375,000 birds of which 80% were Starlings was published in the CBC (RA). Rusty Blackbirds were scarce this winter as compared to last year; small groups were noted at feeding stations in east Louisville during the extreme cold spell January 13-28 (S, BPB, DN). A flock of 5000 Common Grackles appeared in the writer's yard December 6, but left soon after and few were seen the rest of the winter until late February, when the birds began appearing from the south. The species was "short of normal about 90%" at Bedford (JY); and wintered in Rowan County for the first time since 1977 (FB).

Fringillidae — A Dickcissel was observed at a feeding station in Murray, February 19-27 (CP). Evening Grosbeaks were practically absent — only a few were reported: one at a feeder at Murray (*fide* CP); five at a feeder in Louisville, December 20 (DM, VR), three at Morehead (FB); and a "few" in the Valley Station area (DS). Purple Finches were

in low numbers compared to 1981. The House Finch continued to spread in different areas of the state and new sightings were reported from the following locations: Morehead (LK, FB), Fishing Creek Recreation area (JER), Bedford (JY), Fort Wright (EG); present throughout the period at a Louisville feeding station (MSu) and a few at other scattered locations in the Louisville area (AB, SC, BPB, S); one hundred birds at Eubank was the highest number reported (JEl). Pine Siskins were more common after mid-January and were largely confined to central and eastern Kentucky; highest counts were 120 to 160 at Cave Hill Cemetery (AB, KC). Twenty-three Red Crossbills were found at Cave Hill Cemetery, February 7 (JP); numbers increased to 50 by February 17 (AB) and a few remained until February 27 (KC et al). A few White-winged Crossbills were noted: one near Muldraugh, December 10 and 10 near Cherokee Park, February 15 (AB, with R. Bauman). The only records of the Common Redpoll were of single birds at Cave Hill Cemetery, February 7 (JB) and February 10 (DN) and at a Louisville feeding station (VH). The Tree Sparrow continued to be scarce and was entirely absent at Bedford (JY); a few fed at feeding stations in the Louisville area during mid-January and February (S, DN, BPB). A Chipping Sparrow wintered at a Louisville feeding station (BPB). White-crowned Sparrows were fairly widespread and up slightly, but continued low at Louisville (S). Only a few Lapland Longspurs were present in late December in central Kentucky, but when the ground became snow-covered numbers increased in Oldham County, January 14 (S, FS), Boyle County, January 17 (JEl), and a maximum of 250 on a Louisville farm, January 14-18 and a similar number there February 9 and dropped to 25 to 50 February 10-13 (BPB). A flock of 25 Snow Buntings was present at Lexington on January 14 (AnB); a few at Louisville on the same date, but a large flock of about 400 arrived there on February 10 and about 100 still present on February 13 (BPB).

For a number of years *American Birds* has published The Blue List. The birds named on this list are ones which the editor says "have recently given or are currently giving indicators of non-cyclical population declines or range contractions, either locally or widespread." Not all seem reduced in Kentucky, but for some we are interested in their breeding population levels; others on distribution and abundance; and the colonial nesters, which require specific habitats for breeding. Below is a list of birds, some from the Blue List, for which we have some concern here in Kentucky. It is hoped that observers will record any information on them and send the data to the writer along with other notes for the Seasonal Reports. In this way the current status in the state may be determined. The list includes the following: Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Hooded Merganser, Cooper's Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Peregrine Falcon, King Rail, Upland Sandpiper, Barn Owl, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Bank Swallow, Bewick's Wren, Veery, Bell's Vireo, Blackburnian Warbler, Canada Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Grasshopper Sparrow, Henslow's, Vesper, Lark and Bachman's Sparrows.

Contributors — Pierre Allaire (PA), Robert Altman (RA), Alan Barron (AB), Jane Bell (JB), Ann Bradley (AnB), Robert Brown (RB), Fred Busroe (FB), Kathryn Clay (KC), Suzanne Claugus (SC), Dennis

Coskren (DC), Tom Durbin (TD), James Durell (JD), Jackie Elmore (JEl), C. Gresham (CG), Ed Groneman (EG), James H. Hancock (JH), Virginia Hectorne (VH), K. Higgins (KH), Howard P. Jones (HJ), Lewis Kornman (LK), Wayne Mason (WM), Mike Miller (MM), Burt L. Monroe, Jr. (BM), Dottie Muntan (DM), Doxy Noonan (DN), James Pasikowski (JP), Clell Peterson (CP), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB), Lene Rauth (LR), V. Rommel (VR), Nancy Scheldorf (NS), H. E. Shadowen (HS), Bernice Shannon (BS), Lawrence Smith (LS), Russell Starr (RS), Anne L. Stamm (S), F. W. Stamm (FS), Pat Stallings (PS), Louise Stokes (LSt), Margaret Sullivan (MSu), Donald Summerfield (DS), Donna Sumpter (DSu), Marie Sutton (MS), Midge Susie (MiS), John Young (JY), Tom Young (TY). Other abbreviations — Beckham Bird Club (BBC), Christmas Bird Count (CBC), Land Between the Lakes (LBL), Many Observers (M.ob.).

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THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Spring Meeting — April 16-18, 1982

The Fifty-eighth annual Spring meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society was held at Rough River Dam State Resort Park, Falls of Rough, Ky. on April 16, 17, and 18th, 1982.

The president, Pierre Allaire, called the meeting to order and turned the meeting over to Blaine Ferrell, vice-president. Dr. Ferrell introduced Dr. Herbert Clay who presented an excellent slide program, "Birds of Big Pond Sanctuary". Dr. Ferrell also presented a paper entitled "Migratory Strategy of the Purple Finch", research conducted by Laurence Holmes. The president announced the walk schedule for Saturday morning. A social hour followed the meeting.

Three Saturday morning field trips originated from the lodge at 7:45 a.m. Mrs. Herbert Clay conducted a trip to Falls of Rough, Ramon Iles led a tour to Big Pond Sanctuary, and Burt Powell led a third group on a walk along the Nature Trail. A light rain was falling, but the skies cleared by noon. The Clays served a delicious luncheon to the members and guests at their Big Pond Sanctuary home.

At 2:30 p.m. the film "The Last Stronghold of the Eagle", a National Audubon film, was shown in the lodge. Dan Twedt, wildlife biologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Bowling Green, Kentucky discussed the research division of the Service. He also announced that the Wildlife Society of Kentucky has recently been founded in the state. The second film was "The Role of Research" produced by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.

Anne Stamm announced the results of the January Eagle Survey in cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Service. There were 141 Bald Eagles, more in eastern Kentucky than before, and the largest number we have ever had on the survey. Three Golden Eagles were reported.

After President Allaire welcomed everybody to the Saturday evening session, he introduced the speaker, Wallace Dean, wildlife biologist with the Corps of Engineers in the Huntington district. The subject — "History of the Wild Turkey in Kentucky".

After a presentation of the problems of widespread uncontrolled fires, large scale timbering, disease and human encroachment, Mr. Dean went on to tell of the beginnings of protection for the wild turkey, restocking procedures, and what constitutes favorable habitat for these birds. From a wild turkey population in Kentucky of 398,690 in pre-columbian times, there was a total of 1,000 in the state in 1973 and a present population of 7,000 according to Mr. Dean.

President Allaire announced future KOS meetings: Fall 1982 — Cumberland Falls State Resort Park, October 1, 2, and 3 with Dr. Fred Alsop as speaker; Spring 1983 to be held at Barren River State Resort Park, April 22, 23, and 24.

Sunday morning field trips were to begin from the lodge at 8:30. New members and guests were introduced.

Dr. Blaine Ferrell compiled the check list of 106 species.

The group adopted the following resolution: Be it resolved that the Kentucky Ornithological Society express its sincere appreciation to Dr. and Mrs. Herbert Clay for their generous hospitality for allowing the use of Big Pond Sanctuary for field trips and providing the membership with a fine lunch — Spring 1982 KOS meeting.

A complete set of bird prints by Richard Sloan was exhibited by the Woodwards.

It was decided that the Honorable Gene Snyder should receive a letter from KOS commending him for his efforts in the preservation of the Falls of the Ohio.

The meeting adjourned.

Sunday morning was sunny and cool. Birding around the lodge, near the campground and near the Falls of Rough produced four additional species, bringing the total to 110 for the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Virginia Kingsolver
Recording Secretary

BIRDS OBSERVED AT THE SPRING MEETING, 1982

Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Cattle Egret, Black-crowned Night Heron, Canada Goose, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Wood Duck, Lesser Scaup, Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, American Kestrel, Bobwhite, American Coot, Killdeer, Solitary Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Ring-billed Gull, Forster's Tern, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Barred Owl, Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Common Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Acadian Flycatcher, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Purple Martin, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, American Robin, Wood Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet,

Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Northern Parula, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Palm Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, House Sparrow, Eastern Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Northern Oriole, Brewer's Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Savannah Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Tree Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow; total species 110.

ATTENDANCE AT THE SPRING MEETING, 1982

BOWLING GREEN: Blaine Ferrell, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Jones, Wayne Mason, H. E. Shadowen, Dan Twedt.
CARLISLE: Dr. and Mrs. Wendell Kingsolver.
CLARKSON: Ruth Keller.
JACKSON: Dr. and Mrs. Pierre Allaire.
LEITCHFIELD: Mr. and Mrs. Montelle Wilson.
LEXINGTON: Mr. and Mrs. Jim Williams.
LONDON: Roy Wilson.
LOUISVILLE: Bob Brown, Katherine Colburn, Dr. and Mrs. Herbert Clay, Jr., Doris Garst, Mr. and Mrs. P. Gorman, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Japs, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Hectorne, Anna Hook, John Krull, Dr. and Mrs. Burt Monroe, Jr., Kay Mudd, Holly Oldham, Martha Pike, Carl Reed, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Stamm.
MACEO: Mr. and Mrs. Burt Powell.
MOREHEAD: Fred Busroe.
OWENSBORO: Anne Bowne, Jean Burdette, Mary Lydia Greenwell, Mr. and Mrs. Ramon Iles, Juanita Hatcher, Emogene Lashbrook, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Wilson.
RICHMOND: Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Whitt.
JEFFERSONVILLE, IND.: William Clay.
CLARKSVILLE, IND.: Lene Rauth.
DYERSBURG, TENN.: Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Leggett, Joe Bonnell.

FIELD NOTES

SIGHTING OF THE LONG-BILLED DOWITCHER IN ADAIR COUNTY

On Sunday, October 18, 1981, at approximately 12:30 P.M., I was birding a stretch of shoreline on the Green River Lake in northwestern Adair Co., about one mile east of the Highway 551 bridge. At this time of the year, the lake was characterized by a low-flow pool, with an eleva-

tion of approximately 663.95 feet. This exposed vast areas of the lake bottom and mud flats. It can be very rewarding birding to anyone familiar with the birds associated with this type of habitat.

Using a 20X spotting scope, I was able to detect a medium-sized shorebird feeding among several Killdeer *(Charadrius vociferus)*. The bird's generally gray plumage with a white rump extending halfway up the back, short dark legs, very long straight bill and a sewing machine-like feeding motion, identified this bird as a fall-plumaged dowitcher. Realizing that the bill lengths of the two species of dowitchers overlap, I could only discern that this bird's bill was extremely long. Since I did not have anything to compare it to, I could only estimate that the bill's length was at least two and one-half times the width of the side view of the bird's head. At this point, I decided to try and obtain a closer view. Finally able to observe it at 75 feet, I decided to flush the bird. As it flew only a short distance away, it uttered a single-noted call characteristic of the Long-billed Dowitcher *(Limnodromus scolopaceus)*.

Little is known of this species in Kentucky. Mengel's *Birds of Kentucky* lists only one authentic record of an unsexed specimen in winter plumage taken by Monroe at the Falls of the Ohio on October 19, 1946.

Though I am totally convinced that sight records can never replace photographic or specimen records for certain species, I am confident that the bird in question was of this species.

It was also observed by Diane L. Elmore, who agreed with my identification. The weather was partly cloudy and cool.

—JACKIE B. ELMORE, SR., Rt. 1 Box 314-A, Eubank, Kentucky 42567

COLONY OBSERVATIONS ON LAKE BARKLEY

Cattle Egrets *(Bubulcus ibis)*, Little Blue Herons *(Florida caerulea)*, and one pair of Green Herons *(Butorides striatus)* are nesting in a Black-crowned Night Heron *(Nycticorax nycticorax)* colony on Lake Barkley. The rookery was first discovered in 1979 by Richard Lowe, TVA biologist at Land Between the Lakes. At that time approximately 60 Black-crowned Night Heron nests were observed on an island. In 1980 the active nest count was 72, and in 1981 the active nest count ballooned to 213 nests!

During a helicopter survey on May 12, 1981, Burline Pullin (TVA Division of Land and Forest Resources) observed three adult Little Blue Herons in ash trees in the colony and two in intermediate stages of plumage. During an evening flight-line survey on June 15, 1981, I noted three Little Blue Herons flying in and out of the colony, one Green Heron, and four Cattle Egrets with the wheat-gold markings on head and back that distinguished them from immature Little Blue Herons. During the same season, Richard Lowe had identified at least one Cattle Egret nest on the island, and Jeremy Dreier (Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources) photographed a Cattle Egret on the nest in the colony.

The colony has begun to expand to an adjoining island.

—JULIA THOMAS, Biological Aide, TVA, Division of Land and Forest Resources, Norris, TN 37828.

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE FALLS OF THE OHIO

In a recent article, W. H. Brown, (1981, Ky. Warbler 57: 25) dis-

cussed the interaction between an attacking Cooper's Hawk *(Accipiter cooperii)* and a Belted Kingfisher *(Megaceryle alcyon)* on Bensen Creek in Franklin County. I had never before heard of this type of behavior, and I was surprised to witness a somewhat similar confrontation while at the Falls of the Ohio on August 15, 1981.

On this day few fall migrant shorebirds had arrived, but many Killdeer *(Charadrius vociferus)* and several Spotted Sandpipers *(Actitis macularia)* were frequenting the fossil shelf known locally as "wave rock". At about 11:00 a.m. these shorebirds were flushed by an American Kestrel *(Falco sparverius)* as it approached from the northwest. As the shorebirds headed across a wide channel of water towards the major rock shelf, the kestrel suddenly became interested in a pair of the Spotted Sandpipers, quickly closed in on them, and stooped at one of the birds. Upon being approached too closely, this sandpiper, without hesitation, plunged full force into the water, only to appear a couple of seconds later at the surface, from which it immediately took flight. The kestrel, apparently wise to this tactic, veered abruptly and made another pass at the sandpiper, which immediately eluded the falcon a second time by diving beneath the surface, this time reappearing a few feet from where it went in. At this point the kestrel lost interest and proceeded on as the soaking wet, but successful, Spotted Sandpiper resumed its original course.

Perhaps this type of behavior is commonplace, but it is certainly one which has never before been witnessed by the author.

On August 9, 1981, Max Medley and I visited the Falls. The weather was mostly clear and cool, and shorebirds were numerous, probably the result of the passage of a cold front two days earlier.

Waterbirds observed at the Falls included 7 Great Blue Herons *(Ardea herodias)*, 5 Great Egrets *(Casmerodius albus)*, several Black-crowned Night Herons *(Nycticorax nycticorax)*, 6 Green Herons *(Butorides striatus)*,, one Semipalmated Plover *(Charadrius semipalmatus)*, approximately 50 Killdeer *(C. vociferus)*, two American Golden Plovers *(Pluvialis dominica)* one Black-bellied Plover *(P. squatarola)*, 5 Greater Yellowlegs *(Tringa melanoleuca)*, two Pectoral Sandpipers *(Calidris melanotos)*, two Baird's Sandpipers *(C. bairdii)*, two Western Sandpipers, *(C. mauri)*, and a flock of 35 unidentified peeps.

A great number of these birds had collected on the rock shelf that extends out from the Indiana shore. The upper gates of McAlpine Dam were partially open, but had been lowered significantly during the night, trapping thousands of fish, mostly small Emerald Shiners *(Notropis atherinoides)*, in the depressions of this shelf as the high water receded.

It was interesting to note that several of the shorebird species were utilizing this food source almost exclusively. Many of the Killdeer, the American Golden Plovers, and the Black-bellied Plover were all observed to be feeding on these dead or dying "minnows", picking them off the rocks at the edge of the pools and swallowing them whole. The Greater Yellowlegs were also eating these fish, but they were observed actively pursuing and catching live ones in the tiny pools.

Bent (1929) mentions this habit of yellowlegs pursuing minnows as a common feeding method, but no mention is made of plovers scavenging for fish in the manner we observed. He does mention, however, a Black-bellied Plover observed feeding on the remains of a dead crab.

It was surprising to us that none of the herons and egrets were also

feeding in this area along with the shorebirds, but it is quite possible that human activity prevented this.

Our trip was climaxed by the appearance of an immature Peregrine Falcon *(Falco peregrinus)* which gave chase to several of the shorebirds, none of which were pursued diligently enough, we thought, to consider diving beneath the water in the nearby channel to elude the falcon. The Peregrine Falcon remained on the Falls for about fifteen minutes, most of the time spent sitting on the large wall, before it began sircling over the rock shelf and disappeared out of sight to the southeast.

Another observation made at the Falls of the Ohio has never been published, and details of this occurrence follow. On the morning of September 1, 1978, I went to the Falls looking for migrant shorebirds only to find nearly the entire fossil bed covered by water. However, a few dozen rocks remained sticking out of the water, and a collection of herons was utilizing these from which to hunt for fish and on which to rest. About a dozen Great Blue Herons and fifty Black-crowned Night Herons were present and, as I scanned these birds, I noticed a large heron which seemed nearly the size of a Great Blue Heron, but which was neither of the proper color, nor of the proper build. The bird appeared superficially to be an oddly colored Little Blue Heron *(Florida caerulea)*, except I was aware that it was much too large to be that species. The long, thin neck was uniformly ash-brown and the rest of the body was entirely slate blue-gray. The bill was completely blackish with little trace of proximal-distal differentiation, and the legs were likewise blackish. Thus, I had a bird which I could not place using field guides, but which I had a suspicion might be a Reddish Egret *(Dichromanassa rufescens)* in some sort of post-breeding or immature plumage with which I was not familiar. After further thought I decided this was the only possibility and contacted Lene Rauth who, in turn, contacted Burt Monroe, Jr. Later in the day, both of them and Joe Caruso found this bird in the same area and also agreed with my identification. As they were watching the bird, it took off and flew upstream. Without the streaming plumes of the breeding plumage, these birds appear much slimmer, and of a definitely duller coloration, which is not depicted in any field guide. In addition, the dark bill is entirely contrary to the two-toned pattern shown in field guides.

This was a first state record for Kentucky, and it seems improbable that the northerly movement of this species into the state is of regular occurrence. Two days previous to this sighting, the remnants of a hurricane had passed through the state from its origin in the Gulf of Mexico. It is entirely possible that this individual became disoriented in the high winds, clouds, and rain on the Gulf coast and was brought up the Mississippi and Ohio River valleys by the prevailing winds that accompanied this storm.

On September 28, 1981, I visited the falls and witnessed another surprising and strange behavior, this time involving a Great Blue Heron. The weather was overcast and fairly cool, and little shorebird activity was noted. One of the few waterbirds that I did see was a Great Blue Heron that was flying in a northerly direction at an altitude of perhaps 400 feet. As it was crossing the river, I noticed an immature Red-shouldered Hawk *(Buteo lineatus)* paralleling the Indiana shore approximately 200 feet high. The paths of these two birds happened to cross at the Indiana shore, and as the heron crossed over the hawk, it turned, half-closed its wings, stretched out its legs, and proceeded to drop into an almost vertical dive

toward the Red-shouldered Hawk. As the hawk veered slightly down toward the treetops, the Great Blue Heron pulled out of its dive some fifty feet above and behind the hawk by straightening out the wings and flapping a few times. Following this strange behavior, the Great Blue Heron reversed its path, flew back across the river, and landed on the wall, while the Red-shouldered Hawk disappeared out of sight over the trees.

Although I have many times witnessed harassment behavior by a great variety of passerines and other hawks, I was totally unprepared to see this huge bird act in a similar manner.

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—BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR., 8207 Old Westport Rd., Louisville, KY 40222.

WATERFOWL UTILIZATION OF A SMALL LAKE IN THE KNOBS REGION OF KENTUCKY

While conducting a survey of the nonbreeding season birds at Maywoods, Kentucky during 1981, observations were made on the waterfowl utilization of Edmiston Lake. It seems noteworthy to report these observations due to the lack of avifaunal information in this area, and because they demonstrate that a small woodland lake in the Knobs can be attractive to a variety of waterfowl.

Mengel (1965) comments on the deficiency of avifaunal work in the Knobs region of Kentucky. Apparently, information on waterfowl utilization of small woodland lakes in the Knobs is nonexistent. Harm (1973) reported on waterfowl utilizing a woodland lake in eastern Kentucky, and noted the potential value that these lakes can provide for migratory waterfowl over mountainous regions.

Maywoods Environmental and Educational Laboratory is a 696 hectare (1740 acre) tract of land managed by the Division of Natural Areas, Eastern Kentucky University. It is located in the Knobs region of south-central Kentucky, along the southwest border of Garrard County, and the northwest border of Rockcastle County. Edmiston Lake is a small impoundment (completed in September, 1975) with a total surface area of 5.2 hectare (13 acres). It is 11 meters deep at its deepest point. The watershed is entirely forested and the only open area along the water's edge is at the dam. The forest is all second growth upland oak-hickory type.

Vegetation at the lake edge is dominated by cattail *(Typha latifolia)*, and graminoids such as soft rush *(Juncus effusus)*, bulrushes *(Scirpus atrovireus; S. americanus;* and *S. acicularis)*, spike rushes *(Eleocharis spp.)*, deer tongue grass *(Panicum clandestinum)*, and other panic grasses. Common broad-leaved herbs are *Aster pilosus*, *Bideus frondosa*, and *Solidago canadensis*.

SPECIES LIST

Observations were based on visits every few days to the lake, and it is very likely that daily checks would result in many other sightings.

HORNED GREBE *(Podiceps auritus)*. A single bird in winter plumage was observed on March 21. Mengel (1965) considers this species an uncommon transient west of the Cumberland Plateau, and did not have any records for the Cumberland Plateau. Because of Maywoods' proximity to the Cumberland Plateau this record is apparently one of the easternmost reports in Kentucky for this species.

PIED-BILLED GREBE *(Podilymbus podiceps)*. In the fall a single bird was observed from October 20 to December 24 on nearly every visit to the lake. In the spring a group of three or four were seen on every visit from April 1 to April 18.

CANADA GOOSE *(Branta canadensis)*. In 1979 a pair of pinioned birds were brought to the lake, and during the summer of 1981 they raised one gosling. These three can be seen together on almost any visit. One wild goose was seen on February 12, and for a two week period from November 21 to December 5 another pair was observed with the three resident birds.

MALLARD *(Anas platyrynchos)*. A male was seen on December 15, and on December 28 a group of 11 (males and females) flew onto the lake in the late afternoon.

BLACK DUCK *(Anas rubripes)* This species was only recorded in the spring on these dates: March 11 (4); March 14 (2); March 21 (4); and April 4 (4).

PINTAIL *(Anas acuta)*. One male was seen on December 24.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL *(Anas crecca)*. Three birds were flushed off the water on April 6.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL *(Anas discors)*. A male and a female were seen together on March 25.

WOOD DUCK *(Aix sponsa)*. This woodland lake with quiet water provides excellent habitat for Wood Ducks, and they were recorded often from mid-March through the end of April. A pair was seen on several occasions, and on March 18, a group of eight was flushed off the water. Over 50 Wood Duck nest boxes have been attached to trees all around the lake, and it is possible that a pair may nest here, although none have been reported nesting.

RING-NECKED DUCK *(Aythya collaris)*. A group of 12 was observed on December 14, and the following day a single male was seen.

LESSER SCAUP *(Aythya affinis)*. In the spring a female was seen on March 25, and a pair on April 1. The only fall sighting was two males on October 30.

BUFFLEHEAD *(Bucephala albeola)*. Two males were seen together on March 25.

The most diverse assemblage of waterfowl occured on March 25, when the following were observed: 2 Bufflehead, 2 Blue-winged Teal, 1 Horned Grebe, 2 Wood Ducks, and 1 Lesser Scaup.

In addition to the waterfowl, the sighting of an Osprey *(Pandion haliaeetus)* on April 6 was noteworthy. It was seen circling over the lake for a couple of minutes before it flew out of view over a ridge.

The utilization of Edmiston Lake indicates the potential value of small woodland lakes in the Knobs. These lakes may provide important aquatic habitat outside of the major flyways for a variety of migratory waterfowl.

I wish to thank Dr. William H. Martin for the background information on Maywoods, and for providing a university vehicle for transportation to the lake. His review of this paper, and the review of Carol A. Schuler are also greatly appreciated.

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Mengel, R. M. 1965. The Birds of Kentucky, Amer. Ornith. Union Monogr. No. 3, 581 pp.

— ROBERT ALTMAN, Dept. of Biological Sciences, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, Kentucky 40475.

PLEASE MAKE FALL MEETING RESERVATION EARLY

Members are reminded that the Fall KOS meeting is being held at Cumberland Falls State Park October 1, 2, and 3. Reservations may be difficult to obtain because of the World's Fair, so please make your reservation immediately.

NEWS AND VIEWS

ASSISTANCE IN OSPREY HACKING PROGRAM SOUGHT

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources is scheduled to receive six young Ospreys from the T.V.A. Wildlife Resources Development Program during the later part of June this year. They hope to utilize these birds in an Osprey hacking program and are searching for sites at which to place artificial nest platforms. They plan to concentrate their efforts in the Frankfort-Louisville-Herrington Lake area. Each nest will be stocked with two six-week old to seven-week old Ospreys. Food consisting of fish will be provided by the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. The Department is seeking volunteers who are willing to have an artificial nest erected on their property and is also seeking volunteers who would be willing to assist in caring for the young birds. If you are interested in participating, please contact John MacGregor, Nongame Wildlife Program, #1 Game Farm Road, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.