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## Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 61, no. 4)

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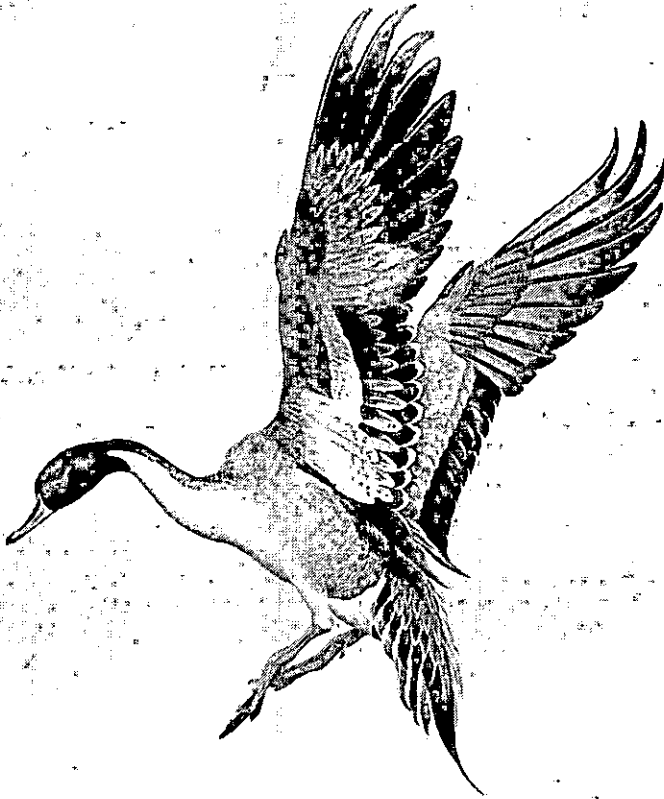
# The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

VOL. 61

NOVEMBER, 1985

NO. 4



## IN THIS ISSUE

THE NESTING SEASON, SUMMER 1985, Anne L. Stamm .....	55
THE K.O.S. FALL MEETING, Lee K. McNeely .....	60
REPORT OF THE TREASURER, Harriet Korfhage .....	63
BOOK REVIEW, Herbert E. Shadowen .....	65
FIELD NOTES .....	66
NEWS AND VIEWS .....	68

## 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, \$5.00; Contributing, \$6.00; Student, \$3.00; Life, \$75.00; 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 .....	B. R. Ferrell, Biology Department, Western Kentucky Univ., Bowling Green 42101
Assistant Editor .....	Herbert E. Shadowen, Bowling Green

### Editorial Advisory Board

Anne L. (Mrs. F. W.) Stamm	Burt L. Monroe, Jr.
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### OUR COVER

Our thanks go to our gifted staff artist, Ray Harm, for this painting of the Pintail Duck.

## THE NESTING SEASON, SUMMER 1985

ANNE L. STAMM

June was cool and wet throughout much of the state, with a severe windstorm in the Louisville area on June 9. Trees were uprooted causing damage to nesting birds. However, in July precipitation averaged below normal.

The spring migration continued through the early part of June for some shorebirds and a Black Duck lingered at the Falls of the Ohio until June 14. The reports contained an increasing amount of data on the actual breeding activities of the birds of the state. Four nests of Yellow-crowned Night Herons were near Shepherdsville and reported by Clay. Busroe, in his intensive survey of the Clark Fish Hatchery, found a nest of Common Moorhens; Palmer-Ball, Jr. discovered a nest of Little Blue Herons on Shippingport Island, the second record for the state; and Mason established the breeding record of Tree Swallows in Warren County. The Stamms investigated a new colony of Bank Swallows in Carroll County and McNeely discovered a Cliff Swallow colony in western Boone County. Noonan watched a Least Flycatcher carry food repeatedly to an area on Big Black Mountain, a behavior characteristic of feeding young. Heretofore, no definite breeding record for the latter species was known. Also, Shadowen continued his study of the House Wren at Bowling Green, with interesting results. Below are listed additional comments on the breeding season during June and July.

*Pelicans through Herons* — Single White Pelicans appeared at the Falls of the Ohio on June 20 (BPB, DN), July 27 (LR) and July 30 (R. Cisserollo, J. Molloy *vide* BPB). The three Least Bitterns at Clark Fish Hatchery on June 10 was noteworthy, one to two birds were seen there until mid-July (FB) and may have nested there; two still present on July 21 (BA). The Great Blue Heron was reported as "more numerous in Ballard County than usual for summer" (CP). The nesting population had increased substantially. The aerial survey at the Axe Lake Colony in Ballard County revealed 242 nests. This was an increase of 18% over last year according to TVA biologist B. P. Pullin's report. Also mentioned in the report were the four colonies in Carlisle, Marshall, Union and Webster-Crittenden Counties with a total of 746 active nests. Additional reports on Great Blue Herons included 13 birds at Smithland Dam, July 5 (LR); post-breeding birds evident at several locations in Boone County (LMc); two at the Falls of the Ohio from June 28 through July (BPB) and observed throughout the period in Fayette County (BA). A nest of Little Blue Herons with five young was found on Shippingport Island in early July, the second known breeding record in the state (BPB); 12 immatures in Carlisle County on July 30 and an adult bird about  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile from the immatures (CP). Four nests with half-grown Cattle Egrets were found on Shippingport Island during July; 11 immatures and 11 adults in the colony on July 12 (BPB); 25+ adults and 50+ immatures were present in Carlisle County on July 30 (CP). Little mention was made of Green-backed Herons, except that three fledged at Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County (KC), small numbers reported in Kenton, Campbell, Boone, Fayette and Jefferson Counties, with

a count of 20 at the Clark Fish Hatchery. A survey of a Black-crowned Night Heronry on Shippingport Island revealed 275 active nests (BPB, S. Evans, M. Evans, J. Molloy), a few nests were destroyed by the June storm; adults and young numbered 280 on July 12 at the Falls of the Ohio (BPB); the colony in Trigg County was also active (F. Boyd *vide* B. P. Pullin); a single bird at East Bend, Boone County on July 21 was unusual there (LMc). The following nests of Yellow-crowned Night Herons were reported: four near Shepherdsville in late May (KC), five at Lexington (M. Flynn, RM) and four at Shippingport Island, one of which was destroyed by the June 9 storm (BPB); an adult was observed at S. Fork Creek on June 15, but no nest was found (WM).

*Geese through Ducks* — A flock of 32 Canada Geese flying in V-formation from south Louisville towards the Ohio River on July 15 was unusual (DS), but may have been some of the summering birds (both wild and introduced) which have been found in some locations during the summer months. Wood Ducks apparently had a good year in most areas, with pairs found with broods in Boone, Owen (LMc), Warren (WM) and Jefferson Counties (S, FS). A Black Duck lingered at the Falls of the Ohio until June 14 (BPB). Although Mallards were in good numbers including several broods of young at the Falls of the Ohio (BPB), they seemed to be down in numbers in central Kentucky (RM). An interesting record was the sighting of a male and female Blue-winged Teal on June 21 on a BBS in north-east Hickman County (CP).

*Hawks* — A Turkey Vulture nest with eggs was found near Union (LMc); numbers appeared to be lower than normal in most of western Kentucky (CP). Ospreys normally are rare in summer, but were found at seven widely scattered locations during June and July, all were single birds, with the exception of a pair at Barren River; also a Kentucky-hacked bird wearing a red leg band showed up at the Falls of the Ohio in mid-June and again in the latter part of July (m. ob.). An adult Bald Eagle was seen on the Cumberland River on June 17 (*vide* JD) and three in the West Point area on June 4 (DS). A single Sharp-shinned Hawk was seen in Taylor County, June 5 (BPB). The only nest of Red-shouldered Hawks was reported at Louisville (LR, BPB). Two immature Broad-winged Hawks were seen at Fishing Creek Area, July 24 (JEL). Reports on American Kestrels were mixed: numerous in Owensboro and Daviess County (RI), scarce in Lexington (RM) and "down in numbers where they have been traditionally stable" around Barren River Reservoir and between Bowling Green and Glasgow (WM).

*Grouse through Moorhen* — A Ruffed Grouse in Grayson County on July 28 was an interesting find (KC). Bobwhites survived the winter in good numbers in the Owensboro area (RI). Common Moorhens were still present on the Clark Hatchery on June 7 and a nest with two eggs was discovered, but later found destroyed, two birds were still present on July 14 (FB); three birds were reported at the Frankfort Fish Hatchery in early June by Sherri Evans and in mid-June by Robert Morris.

*Shorebirds* — Some shorebirds were still passing through in June: four peeps in Boone County on June 2 (LMc); two Sempalmated Sandpipers

at the Falls of the Ohio, June 14 and a White-rumped Sandpiper there on June 19 (BPB). Killdeer with young were found at Burlington, Petersburg (LMc) and in central Kentucky (RM); numbers peaked at Clark Hatchery on July 14 with 70 birds (FP) and at the Falls of the Ohio with 83 on July 24 (LR). Lesser Yellowlegs arrived at Louisville on July 9 (LR) and at the Clark Fish Hatchery on July 14 (FB), with 17 birds as the high at the former location on July 27 (BPB). Greater Yellowlegs were reported from only two locations in the Louisville area, with one to six birds from July 11-27 (LR, BPB, DN) and at Clark Fish Hatchery on July 21 (BA). Eleven Solitary Sandpipers appeared at the Mayfair Basins, Louisville on July 17 (DN) and four at the Clark Hatchery, July 14 (FB) and 21 (BA). A single Willet was an early migrant at the Falls of the Ohio on July 5 (BPB). Three downy young Spotted Sandpipers were found on the Falls of the Ohio on July 12 (BPB), maximum birds there — 12 — on July 24 (BPB). This count is in sharp contrast to the numbers summering in the mid-sixties when 25-30 were present and an estimated 10-12 nesting pairs, all showing territorial behavior patterns (Ky. Warbler, 42: 3-4, 1966). Two Sanderlings arrived at the Falls of the Ohio on July 21 (BPB) and three on July 24 (LR). Although a Semipalmated Sandpiper lingered at the latter location until June 14 (BPB), 17 had returned to the Clark Hatchery on July 14 (FB) and 10 at Mayfair Basins, July 17 (DN); also at BWMA on July 23 (M. Miller, CP) and the Falls of the Ohio on July 24 (LR, BPB). A few Western Sandpipers showed up at two Louisville locations (DN, BPB *et al.*). Least Sandpipers arrived at the Falls of the Ohio on July 5 (same dates as in 1983) with a maximum of 10 birds on July 24 (BPB). The species was widely distributed, but in small numbers during late July from BWMA (CP, M. Miller) to Mayfair Basins (DN) and Clark Hatchery (BPB). A White-rumped Sandpiper lingered at the Falls of the Ohio until June 14 (BPB). Only a small number of Pectoral Sandpipers had arrived by mid-July at a few locations. A Single Stilt Sandpiper was recorded at Mayfair Basins on July 17 (DN) and at the Falls of the Ohio on July 26 (BPB). Returning Short-billed Dowitchers were noted at Clark Fish Hatchery on July 14 with two birds (FB) and six there on July 21 (BA) and one at Mayfair Basins, July 27 (DN).

*Gulls through Terns* — A Franklin's Gull at the Falls of the Ohio on June 4-5 was of interest and observed by many (DN). A second-year Herring Gull was seen at the same location on June 18-20 and a single Caspian Tern on June 14, July 2 (BPB) and two on July 13 (LR). Five migrant Forster's Terns appeared on the Falls of the Ohio on July 26 (BPB). A Least Tern was seen at BWMA on July 23 (CP, M. Miller) and approximately 170 adult birds in five colonies along the Mississippi River, according to a survey by the Missouri Conservation Department (B. Anderson *vide* BPB); while last year the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Department survey showed 210 adults in three active and three suspected colonies (S. Evans). A Black Tern was observed on the Falls of the Ohio on July 2 (two days earlier than previous local records) and four there on July 26 (BPB, J. Molloy).

*Cuckoos through Woodpeckers* — There were three reports of single Black-billed Cuckoos: along Middle Creek, Boone County, June 28 (LMc), Rutland, Harrison County on July 3 and in Greenup County, July 28 (BPB).

A nest of Great Horned Owls was noted in Boyle County (W. Kemper *vide* FLi). A pair of Barn Owls reared two young at Stanley, Daviess County (T. Stevenson, RI). Whip-poor-wills seemed to be down in numbers in Daviess County this summer (RI). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were present in good numbers at Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County (KC) and at various feeders near Jamestown (L. Moser *vide* S). Red-headed Woodpeckers were scarce in some sections of Jefferson and Oldham Counties (DN). At least one nest of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker was found in Laurel County in June (BK).

*Flycatchers through Swallows* — Two to three Willow Flycatchers were seen and heard at the Clark Fish Hatchery from May to late July (FB) and may have nested there: six nests with eggs or young were found on Shippingport Island, but two nests were destroyed by the June 9 storm (BPB, J. Molloy *et al.*); one bird at Petersburg, from May through June (LMc). A record worthy of note was that of a Least Flycatcher observed carrying food to a certain shrub on Big Black Mountain on May 27 (DN). Three Eastern Phoebe nests, with eggs or young, were found in northern Kentucky: one in Boone County and two in Owen County (LMc). One of the latter was parasitized by Brown-headed Cowbirds. Fewer Purple Martins nested in the Seneca Park nest boxes than in 1984, but in Shelby County numbers were normal (S). The only concentration was an estimated 8500 birds near Shippingport Island on July 19 where later they joined a flock at the Colgate Palmolive plant, Jeffersonville, Indiana where an estimated 17,000 birds settled down for the night (BPB). Eight pairs of Tree Swallows were discovered at Dewey Lake on June 16 and documented as a breeding species for Warren County (WM). Only a few Rough-winged Swallows were found on the Henry County BBS, where a few years ago many nested (S, FS); also found breeding in Jefferson and Kenton Counties (JR, EG, respectively). Bank Swallows had a successful year: two small colonies in Boone County (LMc); hundreds in a colony in Livingston County and also in Trimble County (BPB, R. Cassell); and two colonies in Carroll County: one of the latter was in a new gravel pit and had 67 active nesting burrows and at least 150 adult birds, many feeding fully feathered young about ready to leave the nest. The other colony, in an old gravel pit, had at least 76 nesting burrows on the one side of the pit, but only some 25+ birds on July 30. It is likely that the majority of the birds had fledged by the time we were notified by Jim Durell of the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Department (S, FS). It is also probable that a colony existed in the old gravel pit in previous years but heretofore no colony was known in Carroll County. The colony of Cliff Swallows at the Barren River Reservoir was up from 1984 and at least 476 active nests were found by mid-June (WM). A new, small colony of 20 nests was discovered on June 2 in western Boone County, near a bridge over Gun Powder Creek (LMc); also five birds in extreme north-central Christian County on June 18 may indicate a new breeding season record for that county (AS).

*Wrens through Shrikes* — A number of Carolina Wren nests, with eggs or young fledged, were reported from Burlington (LMc) and Louisville (KC, S); numbers not up to par from pre-1978 figures in Daviess County (RI). Encouraging were the reports of Bewick's Wrens from five widely scattered locations: singles in Harrison, Shelby, Todd-Christian line, Trigg

and Woodford Counties (BPB, S, J. Erwin and CP, M. Sutton *vide* RM, respectively). House Wrens continued to use the Eastern Bluebird boxes which were erected in Warren County with much success (HS, WM). A group of four to five Sedge Wrens was found in an old hayfield along the Ohio River bottom, two miles west of Carrsville, Livingston County on July 13 (BPB, R. Cassell). This sighting is farther west than previous breeding season records. In the western edge of Daviess County the Eastern Bluebird was in lower numbers than in 1984, while good numbers were present in the eastern section of the County (M. Brown *vide* RI). Cedar Waxwings remained in good numbers throughout the summer in northern Kentucky (LMc); nests or young fledglings observed in Jefferson, Trimble (BPB) and Woodford Counties (S. Hundley *vide* S) and birds recorded during the period in Spencer and Taylor Counties (BPB). The Loggerhead Shrike was reported as holding its own in western Kentucky (CP).

*Vireos through Warblers* — A nest of Bell's Vireos was being built on the West Kentucky Wildlife Management Area on May 25 (BBC). A Parula Warbler was found singing at Lock Mary, Hopkins County, June 1 (JH). The only Pine Warblers reported were two birds: one in the vicinity of Lake Beshear, Caldwell County, June 19 (CP) and one heard the entire month of June at Maple Spring, Mammoth Cave National Park (WM), but no nest found. A Louisiana Waterthrush nest with five eggs and later five young was found at Boone Cliffs Nature Preserve in early May and a Kentucky Warbler nest with four young also there on June 28 (LMc). Comments on the Yellow-breasted Chat were mixed: scarce in Owensboro, only one pair was found where normally five or six are present (RI); more common than in past years, nesting observed at three locations in Oldham and Jefferson Counties (DN).

*Tanagers through Finches* — A Scarlet Tanager was singing for some time during the period in the Owensboro area, but no nest was found (RI); one present at Lock Mary on June 1 and one at Pond River, July 8, both in Hopkins County, where it is a rare summer resident (JH). Blue Grosbeaks continued to increase in numbers and to extend their range north and eastward in the state. Two pairs of Bachman's Sparrows were found in a field near Hamlin during the period (CP). This was a good year for Dickcissels, particularly in western Kentucky (CP), numbers were on territory in mid-May in southern Fulton County (S, FS); observed nesting at Masterson Station Park in Lexington (M. Flynn, RM). A noteworthy record was that of a Lark Sparrow in southern Pendleton County on July 3 (BPB, B. Anderson). Savannah Sparrows were reported from Masterson Station Park during the period (RM). A number of interesting records of Grasshopper Sparrows were reported: singing birds at two Boone County locations, June 1 and one near Union in the same County on July 27 (LMc); birds noted in Harrison and Pendleton Counties, July 3 (BPB, B. Anderson), six singing birds at three locations on June 9 in Henry County (S, FS) and some at Lexington, Fayette County during the period (RM). There were more reports of Henslow's Sparrows than in recent years: one at two locations in Boone County (LMc); five or more pairs at Lexington, Fayette County and more at the Central Kentucky Wildlife Preserve (RM and BA); three pairs north of Princeton (R. Rowland *vide* CP); and two to three birds during June and July at the Clark Hatchery (FB). Several Song Sparrows



were heard and seen in Hopkins County where it now appears "to be a regular breeding bird, although only in some areas of the county" (JH); down drastically on the Shelby County BBS on June 9 as compared with the June 3, 1984 census (S, FS). Bobolinks were in good numbers at Masterson Station Park, where many adult birds were seen carrying food to young (RM). House Finches continued to spread and several nests were reported: two successful broods in Jefferson County (WJ) and a pair raised two young in northern Rowan County (FB). American Goldfinches are traditionally late nesters, but an adult was seen feeding young out of the nest on the early date of July 8 in the Valley Station area (DS).

*Contributors* — Brad Andres (BA), Fred Busroe (FB), Kathryn Clay James Durrell (JD), Jackie Elmore (JEl), Michael Flynn (MF), Ed Groneman (EG), James W. Hancock (JH), Ramon Iles (RI), Wilbur Jackson (WJ), Brian Knowles (BK), F. Loetscher (FL), Lee McNeely (LMc), Wayne Mason (WM), Robert Morris (RM), Doxie Noonan (DN), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB), Clell Peterson (CP), Lene Rauth (LR), Herbert E. Shadowen (HS), Judy Robertson (JR), Anne L. Stamm (S), F. W. Stamm (FS), Allen Stickley (AS), Donald Summerfield (DS). Other abbreviations — Breeding Bird Survey (BBS), Beckham Bird Club (BBC), Ballard Wildlife Management Area (BWMA), many observers (m.ob.).

Information on the Fall Migration (August, September October and November) should reach the writer no later than *December 7*.

—9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40222

## THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

### Fall Meeting — September 20-22, 1985

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its 1985 Fall Meeting at Pine Mountain State Park on September 20-22.

President Blaine Ferrell welcomed members and guests to the Friday evening session, held at 7:30 P.M. in the Ray Harm Room of the Evans Lodge. Fred Busroe introduced the evening speakers, Dr. Herb Shadowen and Brad Andres. Dr. Shadowen discussed the use of nest boxes by House Wrens in the Bowling Green area. Brad Andres presented an interesting program on hawk migration along the Cumberland Ridge, along with tips on identifying raptors in flight.

Field trips and leaders for Saturday were announced. A social hour and refreshments followed the evening program.

Early morning fog and mild temperatures greeted birders on Saturday morning field trips. Blaine Ferrell led a 5:30 A.M. trip around the lodge area, and a second trip at 8:00 A.M. in the Park. Barry Howard led his group to various areas within the Park and the Clear Creek Baptist School. Fred Busroe led the final group to the golf course and vicinity. An afternoon field trip was taken to the Pinnacle at Cumberland Gap National

Historical Park to observe raptor migration. A total of 78 species were recorded for the day.

The Board of Directors met at the Pinnacle of Cumberland Gap at 4:30 P.M.

The evening meeting began at 7:00 P.M. with dinner in the Ray Harm Room of Evans Lodge. Barry Howard, former park naturalist, was the evening speaker, and gave a fascinating presentation on the natural history of Pine Mountain.

A brief business meeting followed the evening program. A motion to change the dues structure by raising the annual dues for Contributing Members from \$6.00 to \$10.00, and to add a new Corporate Membership category with no fixed amount of dues, was presented and passed by those present. Dr. Herb Shadowen, representing the Nominating Committee, presented the following slate of officers for the coming year: President — Fred Busroe, Vice-President — James Williams, and Councilors — Dennis Sandlin and Thomas Stevenson. Other officers would continue with their current terms of office. The slate was approved as presented.

Future meeting dates and localities were noted as follows: April 25-27, 1986 at Rough River Dam State Park, October 3-5, 1986 at either Kenlake State Park or Kentucky Dam Village State Park, and Spring 1987 at Lake Cumberland State Park.

It was agreed to reinstate KOS membership awards, with responsibility falling to the Nominating Committee for selection of possible recipients.

Blaine Ferrell led the members in compiling the day's bird list. Additional birds seen on Sunday brought the weekend total to 80 species.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lee K. McNeely  
Recording Secretary

## ATTENDANCE AT THE K.O.S. 1985 FALL MEETING

BOMBAY, INDIA: Sundeep Waslekar

BOWLING GREEN: Mr. and Mrs. Blaine Ferrell, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Guthrie, Tony Guthrie, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Mason, Ruth and William Mathes and Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Shadowen

BURLINGTON: Becky, David and Mr. and Mrs. Lee McNeely and Tom Stephens

CARLISLE: Dr. and Mrs. Wendell Kingsolver

CUMBERLAND: Barry Howard

- ELIZABETHTOWN: Joan Noel  
FRANKFORT: Jim Durell  
HAZARD: Dennis Sandlin and Donnie Spencer  
HODGENVILLE: Susan Cruse  
JEFFERSONVILLE, IN: Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Jenkins  
LEITCHFIELD: Mr. and Mrs. Montelle Wilson  
LEXINGTON: Brad Andres, Sara McClellan and Jim Williams  
LOUISVILLE: Mr. and Mrs. Roland Blahnik, Richard Cassell, Kathryn Clay, Diane Ebel, Harriet Korfhage, Kay Mudd, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Esther Pardue, Anne and Fred W. Stamm and Don Summerfield  
MACEO: Mike Brown, Bert and Millie Powell  
MOREHEAD: Fred Busroe  
OWENSBORO: Mary Lydia Greenwell, John Humphrey, Ray R. and L. C. Iles, Roseann Radzelovage and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Wilson  
STANLEY: Tom and Anna Stevenson  
UTICA: Tony and Brenla Eaden  
VERSAILLES: Blanche Schorr

### BIRDS OBSERVED AT THE FALL MEETING, 1985

Birds observed on Saturday field trips include: Great Blue Heron, Green-backed Heron, Wood Duck, Mallard, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Ruffed Grouse, Killdeer, Solitary Sandpiper, Black Tern, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Eastern Screech Owl, Barred Owl, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-pewee, Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Cedar Waxwing, European Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, American Goldfinch and House Sparrow for a total of 78 species. A Black-throated Blue Warbler and Ovenbird were seen on Sunday. This brought the weekend total to 80 species.

## REPORT OF THE TREASURER

Fiscal Year 1984-1985

### GENERAL FUND

Bank Balance, September 25, 1984, First National Bank .....	\$1,337.40
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#### Receipts

Membership Dues .....	\$2,231.00	
Interest Income:		
Endowment Fund .....	454.51	
Gordon Wilson Fund .....	115.71	
Fall Meeting .....	216.50	
Spring Meeting .....	117.00	
Sale of Warblers, check lists, etc. ....	152.85	3,287.57
		\$4,624.97

#### Disbursements

Printing:		
Kentucky Warbler .....	\$1,709.06	
Envelopes .....	106.75	
Treasurer's Expenses (labels, envelopes, etc.) .....	42.95	
Postage .....	275.14	
Meeting Expenses .....	331.39	
Safety Deposit Box .....	20.00	
Nature Conservancy Dues .....	20.00	
Miscellaneous Expense .....	9.67	
Bank Service Charge .....	6.24	
Transfer Life Memberships (3) to Endowment Fund .....	225.00	
Transfer Interest to Gordon Wilson Fund .....	115.71	2,861.91
		\$1,763.06
Cash Balance, First National Bank, September 16, 1985 .....		\$1,763.06

### ENDOWMENT FUND

Balance in Savings Account - Future Federal, September 25, 1984 .....	\$ 579.16
Certificate of Deposit (4) .....	4,500.00

#### Receipts

Interest Income:		
Certificate of Deposit .....	\$ 454.51	
Savings Account .....	24.91	
Life Memberships (3) .....	225.00	704.42
		\$5,783.58

**Disbursements**

Transfer to General Fund .....		\$ 454.51
		<u>5,329.07</u>
Balance in Fund, September 16, 1985		
Certificate of Deposit (4) .....	\$4,500.00	
Balance in Savings Account .....	829.07	
		<u>5,329.07</u>
	<b>Total</b>	<u>\$5,329.07</u>

**GORDON WILSON FUND**

Balance in Savings Account, September 25, 1984 .....		\$1,019.61
Certificates of Deposit (2) Great Financial Federal .....		2,000.00
		<u>3,019.61</u>

**Receipts**

Interest on Certificate of Deposit .....	\$ 115.71	
Interest on Savings Account .....	56.49	172.20
		<u>3,191.81</u>
Certificate of Deposit .....	2,000.00	
Balance in Savings Account .....	1,191.81	
		<u>\$3,191.81</u>

**BALANCE SHEET****September 16, 1985****Assets:**

Cash — General Fund .....	\$ 1,763.06
Endowment Fund .....	5,329.07
Gordon Wilson Fund .....	3,191.81
	<u>10,283.94</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>\$10,283.94</u>

**Liabilities**

Accounts Payable .....	\$ 76.00
<b>NET WORTH</b> .....	<u>10,207.94</u>
	<u>\$10,283.94</u>

Harriet Korfhage  
Treasurer

## REPORT OF THE AUDITOR

The treasurer's records, bank statements, certificates of deposit and other financial records of the Society were examined for the period of September 25, 1984 through September 16, 1985.

The examination confirmed that receipts and disbursements have been accounted for and bank balances are in agreement with the treasurer's statements.

Frederick W. Stamm

## BOOK REVIEW

*GUIDE TO OWL WATCHING IN NORTH AMERICA*, by Donald S. Heintzelman. Winchester Press, An Impact of New Century Publishers, Inc., 220 Old New Brunswick Road, Piscataway, N.J. 08854, 1984; pp. xiii + 193. \$8.95.

The release letter accompanying this publication included the following statement: "Here is an inexpensive, compact, truly comprehensive, illustrated manual covering all aspects of owl watching." The cover construction is paperback, and the illustrations are not in color, so it should be inexpensive. When considering today's publication costs, \$8.95 is a very reasonable cost. It is 193 pages in length, including the index; thus, it is compact. Its topics include species accounts, types and methods of owl watching, owl watching equipment, owl pellets and food habits, owl migrations and invasions, survival adaptations, owl conservation, field marks, and owl watching sites in the United States and Canada. Each species account includes common and scientific names, dimensions, field recognition, flight style, voice, nest, eggs, food, habitat, and North American distribution. Thus, much information concerning each North American owl species is presented in a concise manner. Other inclusions that may be helpful to those interested in owls include owl silhouettes, owl nest box dimensions, an owl pellet guide, and suggested reading.

Some might question the value of utilizing 74 pages (38 percent of the book) in listing and briefly describing owl watching sites. This procedure was used in *Kentucky Birds, A Finding Guide*, by Barbour, *et al.* A few years following publication some of the listed areas had undergone radical change and were no longer the desirable birding areas they were at the time of writing. Heintzelman briefly mentions two Kentucky areas, the Kleber Wildlife Area near Frankfort and Mammoth Cave National Park. These two areas will probably remain in their present natural state for many years because they are publicly owned.

Disappointing aspects of the guide include the absence of color, the absence of range maps, and the absence of descriptions comparing similar species. Identification of species having color phases or plumage variations are much easier when color plates are used, but this would have increased the publication price considerably. Anyone attracted to owl watching will probably already possess a general field guide containing the features mentioned above.

Those expecting a field identification guide equal to those of Peterson or Robbins, *et al.* will be disappointed in *Guide to Owl Watching in North America*, but those who desire more information concerning owls than the brief species coverage in field guides will find this publication a desirable addition to their libraries. It is particularly recommended to those who desire to expand their knowledge of owls and who would travel extensively to observe owls in the field.—H. E. SHADOWEN, Biology Department, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green 42101.

## FIELD NOTES

### SAW-WHET OWL IN JEFFERSON COUNTY

While participating on the Louisville area Christmas Bird Count on December 18, 1983, John Callahan and I were fortunate enough to blunder upon a Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*).

We were covering an overgrown pasture on Surrey Hills Farm in the northeast portion of Jefferson County and were heading up a gradual hillside dotted with Red Cedars (*Juniperus virginiana*), honeysuckle (*Lonicera sp.*), and assorted small saplings, when a couple of small White Pine (*Pinus strobus*) seedlings attracted our attention. Because I was so surprised to see these trees coming up in the pasture, I walked over to one for closer inspection. As I stepped up to the pine, my right arm brushed a nearby cedar and caused a small commotion in the branches. The rustling noise attracted my attention, and I turned to look into the tree only to see a very distraught and quite startled Saw-whet Owl staring at me not a foot or two away. The owl was in the process of making a hasty retreat from the tree, from which it immediately flew.

Astonished by what I had just seen, I turned to John who had also seen the little owl before its exit out the back side of the tree. Because of the number of cedars, the owl's destination was unknown, but feeling confident that the bird was very close by, we set out in search of it. Nearly an hour passed before we found the bird again, and then only because it became nervous and flushed again from another cedar. This time the bird landed in clear view in a small deciduous sapling, and both of us studied the bird through binoculars at about thirty feet for several minutes. The bird soon ducked into a thick tangle of honeysuckle where we left it for fear of disturbing it too much.

The small size and "earless" head were immediately obvious to us. Otherwise, the bird had bright yellow eyes, a dark, blackish bill, whitish eyebrows that converged over the bill, light underparts heavily streaked with broad chestnut stripes, and medium brown wings, back and tail. The scapulars had large white spots.

The spot from which the owl was first flushed had no accumulation of droppings or pellets, indicating that the bird had either not been in the vicinity long, or that it did not use that roost regularly. Subsequent searches for the bird have been unsuccessful, but I feel sure that I flushed the bird from another cedar about a week after the initial sighting. Al-

though I did not see it well, a similarly-sized bird flushed from the tree before I could get a good look.

This appears to be the third Louisville sighting of a Saw-whet Owl. Monroe, Jr. (KW 52: 52) gives one record for fall and early winter 1955 and Stamm (KW 58: 51) gives another for a bird struck by a moving car on March 31, 1982. There seem to be less than a dozen records for the state. — Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., 8207 Old Westport Rd., Louisville 40222.

### WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE AT THE LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES

On March 11, 1985, Mr. John D. Humphrey and myself found a White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) on a grassy shore at the Land Between the Lakes. It was feeding with a flock of Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) on Honker Lake. The bird was at the rear of the flock and then would mingle for a short time before assuming his solitary position. Mr. Humphrey and I had an excellent view of this specimen and examined him at length through binoculars (10X50 to 40 power zoom and 7X35). The white face was examined closely and the bright orange feet and legs and striped belly were also noted. We compared the description with that in Peterson's Field Guide and the Golden Guide. Due to the closeness (about 200 feet) and careful study, we feel absolutely sure of the identification.

There is no doubt that this species is a regular transient through this area but due to the few records we felt that this sighting was significant. In reference to the status of this species, the reader is directed to "The Birds of Kentucky" by Dr. Robert M. Mengel, page 175 and "Kentucky Birds" by Barbour, Peterson, Rust, Shadowen and Whitt, page 10. This sighting reaffirms my opinion that many species that are seldom seen may prove to be more common as more observers take to the field — A. L. (BERT) POWELL, Owensboro Area Museum, 2829 S. Griffith Avenue, Owensboro 42301.

### RECORD BREEDING AGE FOR FEMALE STARLINGS

Several accounts of age and survival rates of Starlings have been published (Klimkiewicz *et al.* J. Field Ornithol. 54(3): 287-294, 1983; Stewart, N.A. Bird Bander 3(3): 93-94, 1978; Burt and Giltz, EBBA News 36(4): 224-226, 1973 and Frankhauser, Bird Banding 42(1): 36-42, 1971). However, there have been no records of older females that were definitely breeding. Kessel (Am. Midl. Nat. 58:257-331, 1957) reported a female that had nested four years in the same area, but no reference was made to the age of the bird.

On 10 December 1977 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) placed band number 772-57113 on an unknown-aged female Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), taken from a decoy trap at the Western Kentucky University Farm, Bowling Green, Kentucky. The bird was retrapped in a nest-box trap at the same location on 7 May 1985 while incubating five eggs. The calculated age of at least seven years, eleven months apparently establishes the maximum breeding age for female Starlings to date. Based on analyses of bird-banding records (1933-1981), this also sets a longevity record in



Kentucky for a female Starling captured and recovered in the same 10-minute block. Only one other female this old has been reported in the state (Bird Banding Laboratory Records).

From 1933 to 1981, 4 (1.1%) of the 373 Starlings recaptured in Kentucky have fallen within an age of 7+ years or older; the oldest bird being 8.3 years of age (Bird Banding Laboratory Records). Nationwide 1.2% of the Starling recaptures from 1924 to 1978 occurred in this age group or older (derived from Bird Banding Laboratory record analyses by Richard Dolbeer, USFWS) with the oldest bird recorded at 15.3 years (Klimkiewicz *et al.* J. Field Ornithol. 54(3): 287-294, 1983). — SHIRLEY K. TIMBROOK, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Denver Wildlife Research Center, Kentucky Research Station, 334 15th Street, Bowling Green 42101.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### 1985 MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT

Forms for the Mid-winter Bird Count have been mailed. If you have not received them or you wish to participate as a compiler, please contact the editor. All birds recorded must be within a 15-mile diameter circle between December 18 and January 5. Reports of extraordinary sightings must be accompanied by verification forms which will be provided to each compiler.

### MOVING?

If you are moving or changing address, please notify the Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer in order that the mailing of the Kentucky Warbler may be carried out expeditiously. Thank you.