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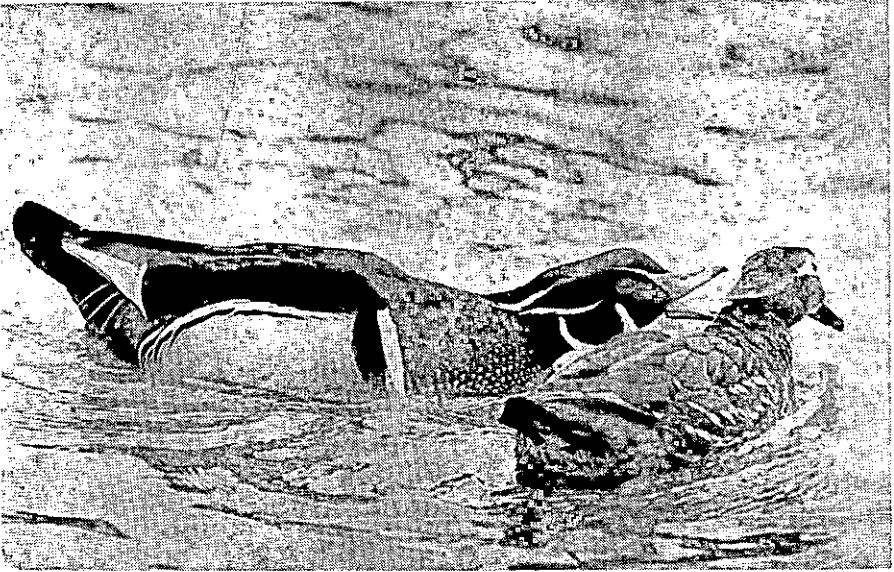
The Kentucky Warbler

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IN THIS ISSUE

THE WINTER SEASON, 1985-1986, Anne L. Stamm	26
WINTER WATERFOWL ON THE SWAN POND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, Charles W. Logsdon	30
THE K.O.S. SPRING MEETING, Lee McNeely	32
BOOK REVIEW, Herbert Shadowen	34
NEWS AND VIEWS	35

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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

Our thanks go to Philippe Roca of Lexington for the excellent photograph of this pair of Wood Ducks.

THE WINTER SEASON, 1985-86

ANNE L. STAMM

The mild weather of the fall continued until the third week of December when the temperature dropped to six degrees on three days. Only 1.6 inches of snow fell during the month. Due to that week of cold weather the average monthly temperature at Louisville was 6.8 degrees below normal, according to the Weather Bureau. January and March both had average temperatures above normal. The weather in February was mixed with ups and downs. A winter storm hit the Louisville area and much of the state on February 14 and 15. Snowfall was as high as eight inches in central Kentucky making roads in some sections of Jefferson County impassable, but with warm days following the storm the snow melted rather rapidly. At Louisville on February 18 the temperature hit 72 degrees — one degree short of the record for that date. Elsewhere in the state temperatures were equally mild. Paducah tied its record high with a reading of 71 degrees and Lexington recorded a high of 69 degrees, one below its record. The high was 70 in Bowling Green and 65 in Covington. Less than an inch of rain fell in December and January, but precipitation was above normal in February.

As expected with the mild winter some species lingered into late December. Canada Geese were found in large groups in late December in much of the state. Gulls were in lower numbers than in recent years. The duck population was uninteresting except in western Kentucky, particularly Ballard County. Fairly good numbers of Purple Finches and Pine Siskins were present in late January and February. Evening Grosbeaks were present in good numbers in eastern and western Kentucky, but few in the central part of the state.

Unusual birds recorded included a Tundra Swan, White-fronted Goose, Glaucous and Thayer's Gulls, Gray Catbirds, wintering Brown Thrashers, LeConte's Sparrow and Brewer's Blackbirds.

Loons through Herons — One to ten Common Loons were present at Lake Pewee, Lake Barkley and Lexington Reservoir the first two weeks of December, but five were present at Doe Valley Lake, January 5 (S, DN, DS, FS), three at Barren River the first week of January (WM) and one at Green River Lake, January 12 (JEL). Several Pied-billed Grebes wintered at Barren River Reservoir (RS), Lake Pewee (JH) and Lexington Reservoir (BA). Horned Grebes were scarce; one at Lake Pewee on February 19 was probably a spring arrival (JH). Although Great Blue Herons were widespread they were not as numerous as last winter; highest numbers were along the Barren River (WM). In addition to the four Black-crowned Night Herons reported on the Louisville CBC, two were seen at Mayfair basins on February 26 (BPB).

Waterfowl — An interesting find was the Tundra Swan at Jonathan Creek Bay on December 21 (MM) and 22 (MM, CP). A flock of 14 Mute Swans appeared at Three Springs Lake, Warren County in early December and remained throughout the period (WM); five were observed at Campbellsville Lake, Taylor County on January 12 (JEL); and an adult was seen at Doe Valley Lake on December 28, but was gone six days later

(S, H. Schutte, M. Bauer). A Greater White-fronted Goose was seen at Honker Lake on February 20 (CP). The only large concentration of wintering Snow Geese totaled 9000 to 10,000 at Ballard Waterfowl Management Area (hereafter BWMA) on February 1 (CW). Wintering Canada Geese were present in fairly large flocks and were widespread (m.ob.); largest concentration totaled 62,000 at BWMA (CW). The latter flock began moving northward in late January and only 10,000 were present on February 10 (CW). The largest concentration of ducks was in western Kentucky. The duck population peaked with 19,000 at BWMA on December 16 (CW). Mallards were widespread, but no large numbers, with the exception of 1243 on the Louisville CBC and 1000 at Swan Pond on February 16 (BPB). Ducks from farther south, such as American Wigeon, Gadwall and Northern Pintail, began arriving at lakes, ponds and reservoirs in western, central and northern Kentucky during February. Only 12 Canvasbacks appeared on the CBCs, but numbers increased in January and February with 10 at Louisville on January 29 (LR), 150 at Lake Barkley on January 18 (BPB, LR, R. Cassell and D. Ebel), and 100 plus at Swan Lake, February 16 (BPB). Highest counts of Redheads included 50 at Lake Pewee on February 26 (JH) and 100 to several hundred at Swan Lake on February 16 (BPB). A few Greater Scaup were reported: two in the Ohio River basin at Louisville, December 17 (LR); a few at Towhead Island, Louisville in mid-January (BPB); two at Shippingport Island on December 22 (S, H. Scutte); and at Three Springs Lake and Barren River Reservoir during February and December, respectively (WM). An Oldsquaw was photographed in the bottoms adjacent to Swan Pond, February 16 (BPB). Scoters reported included a pair of Surf at Smithland Dam, December 3 (BPB) and a White-winged at Lexington Reservoir on December 13 (BA). Over 100 Common Goldeneye Ducks were seen at Lake Barkley on January 18 (BPB, LR, R. Cassell, D. Ebel). Hooded Mergansers were reported from six localities: Lake Pewee, Lexington Reservoir, Lentz' Pond, Barren River Reservoir, Lake Barkley and Cave Run Lake. Common and Red-breasted Mergansers were present, but in small numbers with a high count of 20 Common on Honker Lake, January 18 (BPB *et al.*) and 16 of the latter species at Lake Pewee on February 19 (JH).

Hawks — A single Osprey was still present at Fishing Creek Recreational Area, Pulaski County, December 1 (JEL); and one on January 2 at the Narrows Boat Dock on Barren River Reservoir (WM). Bald Eagles were present in good numbers this winter. The January survey totaled 234, a new record (JD). Northern Harriers were up from last year; five were seen two miles east of Harrodsburg on December 29 (LR). Both Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks were widely observed in fair numbers during December. Cooper's were also reported eating birds: a Starling at Owensboro (RI), a Mourning Dove at Louisville (W. Schoettler) and one crashed into a basement window and killed itself chasing prey at a nearby feeder (DN). Red-shouldered Hawks remained scarce, but were doing slightly better. Red-tailed Hawks showed a 74% gain over last year, according to the CBCs. Most of the few Rough-legged Hawks were found in central Kentucky with a maximum of 21 found near roosts in Clark County, January 14 (BA). The rare Merlin was reported at Glasgow on January 11 (RS).

Wild Turkey through Shorebirds — In addition to the 30 Wild Turkeys reported on the Land Between the Lakes CBC, 12 were observed in Ballard County on February 18 (BPB, J. MacGregor). A few Dunlin and a Least Sandpiper lingered until December 21 at Jonathan Creek Bay (M. Miller *vide* CP); singles of each species were also noted at Lake Barkley on December 3 (BPB). Quite unusual was the Spotted Sandpiper at Campbellsville Lake, Taylor County on January 19 (JEL). American Woodcocks were seen or heard in February at eight locations with the earliest at Land Between the Lakes on February 15 (BA); one picked up at Treyton Oak Towers, Louisville on February 19, and after a short period of time, took to the air (*vide* S). It was thought the bird flew against one of the windows and was temporarily stunned.

Jaeger through Gulls — A jaeger species, a new record for the state, was seen on Lake Barkley, one mile south of the dam on December 3 (BPB). Thirty-five Bonaparte's Gulls were present at Lake Barkley on December 8 (BPB, LR, R. Cassell, D. Ebel), but only a few could be found in January at the Falls of the Ohio (BPB), Lake Cumberland (BA), and Cave Run Lake (FB). Ring-billed Gulls were not as numerous this winter, with peaks of 3000-3500 at Lake Barkley and Kentucky Lake (DN, CP, BPB); fair numbers at Barren River Reservoir (RS) and approximately 30 remained all winter at the Fish Hatchery and Cave Run Lake (FB). Herring Gulls were in low numbers at Louisville (LR), and only several hundred at Barkley and Kentucky Dams, in January and February (BPB). An adult Thayer's Gull was observed at Smithland Dam, Livingston County, and three first-year birds below Kentucky Dam on January 18 (BPB, R. Cassell, D. Ebel); two first-year birds at Kentucky Dam on February 15 and one there the following day were the only ones reported (BPB). A total of six Glaucous Gulls (1 adult, others first-year and first-second winter) were observed at Lake Barkley, Kentucky and Barkley Dams on various dates ranging from December 8 to February 16 (BPB, DN, JR, LR, R. Cassell, D. Ebel); one (first-winter) at the Falls of the Ohio from December 27-January 12 (DN, BPB, D. Ebel).

Owls through Swallows — The only Common Barn Owls reported were the two on the CBCs: one at Sorgho and one at Lexington. Short-eared Owls were scarce: one in Shelby County on January 12 (WB). Horned Larks were much more numerous during late December than last year, especially in Louisville and Yelvington. A fairly early Tree Swallow was observed on February 16 over Swan Pond, Ballard County (BPB). Several Eastern Phoebes lingered into late December and early January (m.ob.).

Crows through Shrikes — A large Crow roost was again reported near Lexington with numbers estimated at 14,000+ during late December (RM). Red-breasted Nuthatches were common and widespread. They remained throughout the winter in Fayette, Hopkins, Jefferson and Warren Counties. A feeder at Bowling Green had as many as nine birds at one time (WM). Carolina Wrens apparently suffered from the severe weather in January 1985 since the CBCs showed a 34% decrease over last year. Eastern Bluebirds were widespread, but showed a decline over the previous year. Finding nine Hermit Thrushes at Land Between the Lakes on February 15 was of special interest (BA). Migratory movements of the American Robin were noted during the week of January 15-21 at Louisville (S) and in Lexington on February 6 (BA). Statewide fewer American Robins wintered than in

1985. A few Catbirds were recorded: one on January 1 at Freeman Lake (RH); and one at Louisville on January 14 (MB). A few Brown Thrashers wintered: one throughout the period at Madisonville (JH); one at Louisville from December 26-February 14 (S, FS). Water Pipits were observed throughout January in Clark County and a single bird at Land Between the Lakes on February 15 (BA). Loggerhead Shrikes were about normal in numbers.

Warblers through Blackbirds — Yellow-rumped Warblers were scarce in some localities. Only small numbers of Tree Sparrows were present this winter. A few Savannah Sparrows showed up in Clark County on January 26 (BA) and 15 were seen near Bandana, Ballard County on February 16 (BPB). A LeConte's Sparrow at La Center, Ballard County, February 16 was probably an early migrant (BPB). A total of 45 Fox Sparrows on the Bowling Green CBC was unusual (H. Shadowen). The species was not found in some areas where it usually overwinters (DS), but two or three were present at feeders during the coldest weather at Surrey Hill Farm, Louisville (BPB). An unusually large blackbird roost was present in the Fern Creek area. On November 27 Dr. Burt L. Monroe, Jr. estimated 467,000 birds with the majority being Common Grackles, and Starlings. Numbers increased and by the end of February the roost contained approximately 9,200,000 birds. At the latter date, Common Grackles, Red-winged Blackbirds and Brown-headed Cowbirds made up the larger portion of the roost (BM). Three male and one female Brewer's Blackbirds were seen in Clark County on February 19 (BA).

Finches — Purple Finches were widespread and in good numbers. House Finches continued to increase in numbers particularly in central Kentucky (m. ob.). A probable Common Redpoll was heard, but "not seen well" at BWMA on February 16 (BPB). Pine Siskins were widespread and more common than last winter; 30 were at a feeding station on January 16, east of Murray (WB); and as many as 14 on a feeder in Bowling Green (WM). American Goldfinches were unusually common and widespread. There was much activity at feeding stations: a count of 100 at Murray on January 16 (WB); a maximum of 52 at Madisonville (JH); also good numbers at Valley Station (DS). Evening Grosbeaks were more common in eastern and western Kentucky than in the central part. Fifteen to thirty were seen daily at a feeding station in Morehead and similar numbers at other feeders in the city (FB); a count of 125 at a feeder east of Murray on January 16 (WB); "hordes" at Tompkinsville (*vide* RS); smaller numbers at Falls of the Rough (KC); and almost non-existent in Louisville.

Contributors — Brad Andres (BA), Mary B. Bauer (MB), Wally Brines (WB), W. H. Brown (WB), Kathryn Clay (KC), Herbert Clay (HC), James Durell (JD), Jackie Elmore (JEL), E. Groneman (EG), Richard Healey (RH), James W. Hancock (JH), Ramon Iles (RI), Lee McNeely (LMc), Mike Miller (MM), Robert Morris (RM), Kay Mudd (KM), Burt L. Monroe, Jr. (BM), Doxie Noonan (DN), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB), Clell Peterson (CP), Lene Rauth (LR), John Robinson (JR), Anne L. Stamm (S), F. W. Stamm (FS), Russell Starr (RS), Margaret Sullivan, (MS), Donald Summerfield (DS), Charles Wilkins (CW). Other abbreviation: Christmas Bird Counts (CBC). — 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville, 40222.

WINTER WATERFOWL ON THE SWAN POND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA

CHARLES W. LOGSDON

The Swan Pond Wildlife Management Area (SPWMA) consists of approximately 2800 acres of cypress-ringed lakes and natural wetlands in the southwestern corner of Ballard County, Kentucky. During the period from 1 December 1985 through 1 March 1986 intensive waterfowl surveys were performed to document waterfowl use that occurred on the area. The average daily population per week, total goose and duck use-days per week, and total number of Canada Goose (*Branta canadensis*) and duck use-days for the entire survey period are presented in Tables 1 and 2.

Peak Canada Goose use occurred during the last week of February when the average daily population was 1500 geese. This late winter increase was the result of geese returning north from wintering areas south of the SPWMA. Snow Geese (*Chen caerulescens*) were not observed on the area until late February when flocks of 4-10 geese were observed on two separate occasions. Blue phase Snow Geese were predominate as only two white phase geese were observed. The only other goose species represented was the White-fronted Goose (*Anser albifrons*) of which three immatures were observed during the last week of February.

Table 1. Average daily Canada Goose population estimates by week and total goose use-days observed on the Swan Pond Wildlife Management Area between 1 December 1985 and 1 March 1986.

Week	Average Daily Population	Range	Goose Use-days per week
1 Dec. - 7 Dec.	40.0	0- 200	280.0
8 Dec. - 14 Dec.	25.0	0- 200	175.0
15 Dec. - 21 Dec.	345.5	74- 550	2,418.5
22 Dec. - 28 Dec.	617.3	149- 1,000	4,321.1
29 Dec. - 4 Jan.	279.2	150- 550	1,954.4
5 Jan. - 11 Jan.	197.5	57- 326	1,382.5
12 Jan. - 18 Jan.	317.7	183- 585	2,223.9
19 Jan. - 25 Jan.	612.6	515- 700	4,288.2
26 Jan. - 1 Feb.	426.1	200- 800	2,982.7
2 Feb. - 8 Feb.	469.8	0- 750	3,288.6
9 Feb. - 15 Feb.	700.00	700	4,200.0*
16 Feb. - 22 Feb.	830.2	521- 1,000	5,811.4
23 Feb. - 1 Mar.	1,500.2	1,200- 1,800	10,500.0
Total =			43,827.3

* Backwater and ice prevented accurate surveys for majority of week.

Table 2. Average daily duck population estimates by week and total duck use-days observed on the Swan Pond Wildlife Management Area between 1 December 1985 and 1 March 1986.

Week	Average Daily Population	Range	Duck Use-days per week
1 Dec. - 7 Dec.	1,034.5	600- 1,469	7,241.5
8 Dec. - 14 Dec.	3,830.0	2,660- 5,000	26,810.0
15 Dec. - 21 Dec.	31,850.0	10,900-45,000	222,950.0
22 Dec. - 28 Dec.	25,850.0	22,500-30,800	180,950.0
29 Dec. - 4 Jan.	11,606.3	7,000-25,000	81,244.1
5 Jan. - 11 Jan.	12,316.3	10,430-14,110	86,214.1
12 Jan. - 18 Jan.	2,689.2	615- 8,100	18,824.4
19 Jan. - 25 Jan.	4,565.8	3,000- 6,095	31,960.6
26 Jan. - 1 Feb.	21,912.8	3,892-47,620	153,389.5
2 Feb. - 8 Feb.	1,000.2	96- 3,100	7,001.4
9 Feb. - 15 Feb.	3,000.0	3,000	21,000.0*
16 Feb. - 22 Feb.	2,100.8	425- 3,680	14,705.6
23 Feb. - 1 Mar.	2,168.5	2,037- 2,300	15,179.5
Total =			867,470.7

* Backwater and ice prevented accurate surveys for majority of week.

Duck use on the area was greatest during the third week of December when the average daily population was 31,850 (range 10,900-45,000). Average daily populations remained above 10,000 ducks until the second week of January when food resources on the area were exhausted. A dramatic increase from an average daily population of 4,500 to 22,000 was observed during the last week of January as ducks began to return with the first warm air masses that moved north from the Gulf.

The primary duck species observed on the area during December and January was Mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), but Northern Pintails (*A. acuta*), American Black Ducks (*A. rubripes*), American Wigeons (*A. americana*), Ring-necked Ducks, (*Aythya collaris*) and Canvasbacks (*A. valisineria*) were also abundant on the area. During late February diving ducks became the predominate species with Lesser Scaup (*Aythya affinis*), Red-heads (*Aythya americana*), Common Goldeneyes (*Bucephala clangula*) and Canvasbacks being the most common species. Buffleheads (*Bucephala albeola*), Hooded Mergansers (*Lophodytes cucullatus*) and Common Mergansers (*Mergus merganser*) were also observed regularly.

The most notable birds species observed on the area were Anhinga (*Anhinga anhinga*) on 8 December (1) and 9 December (2), one Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*) on 3 December and a family of Trumpeter Swans (*Cygnus buccinator* (2 adults: 3 immatures) on 11 February (no details given).

— Department of Biological Sciences, Murray State University, Murray, Kentucky 42071

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Spring Meeting — April 25-27, 1986

The 63rd annual spring meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society was held at Rough River Dam State Park on April 25-27, 1986.

The Friday evening session was called to order by the president, Fred Busroe, who welcomed those present. He then turned the meeting over to vice-president Jim Williams for the introductions of the evening speakers. Brad Andres presented the results of a study on wintering raptors in Clark County, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. spoke on the status of nesting herons and egrets on Shippingport Island at the Falls of the Ohio, Allen Stickley, Jr. presented a program on blackbird roosts and methods of control, Dr. Herbert Clay provided information on nesting Bluebirds in Grayson County and the evening program was concluded with an update on the progress of the Kentucky Breeding Bird Atlas project. Field trips and leaders for Saturday and Sunday were announced. The Friday session was concluded with a social hour.

Saturday morning was warm and sunny. There was a 5:00 a.m. field trip around the lodge followed by an 8:00 a.m. trip to the Falls of the Rough led by Mrs. Herbert Clay and Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. A lavish lunch was generously provided by the Clays at their Big Pond Sanctuary. A cassette presentation of "Birding with Roger Tory Peterson" was shown at the lodge at 2:30 p.m. The Board of Directors met at 4:00 p.m.

The Saturday evening meeting began at 7:30 p.m. at the lodge. Fred Busroe introduced the program, the film "Last Stronghold of the Eagles." Following the film, members went to the front of the lodge to view Halley's Comet which was located by the Kingsolvers. The group then returned to the lodge for a brief business meeting. The treasurer's report was given and Blaine Ferrell, Virginia Kingsolver and Anne Stamm were approved as members of the Nominating Committee. The 1986 Fall Meeting will be October 3-5 at Kenlake State Park and the 1987 Spring Meeting was tentatively set for April 24-26 at Lake Cumberland State Park. Fred Busroe expressed to the Clays the gratitude of the K.O.S. for the fine luncheon they provided at Big Pond Sanctuary. New members were welcomed and new life members were recognized. Members were urged to write their congressmen regarding the need to maintain federal funding for the Land Between the Lakes programs. Finally, Fred Busroe led the group in compiling the day's bird list which totaled 102 species.

A Sunday morning field trip beginning at 8:30 a.m. was led by Mrs. Clay to Byrd Haven. Additional birds observed on Sunday brought the weekend total to 108 species. Total registrations for the meeting were 69.

Respectfully submitted
Lee McNeely
Recording Secretary

ATTENDANCE AT THE SPRING MEETING, 1986

Members and guests who registered totaled sixty-nine. Seventeen cities in Kentucky, plus one in Indiana, were represented.

BOWLING GREEN: Blaine Ferrell, Jeff Jones, William and Ruth Mathes, Herbert and Jacky Shadowen, Allen and Mildred Stickle, Jr.

BURLINGTON: Lee and Lynda McNeely.

CARLISLE: Wendell and Virginia Kingsolver.

CLARKSON: Ruth Keller, Mrs. Temple Keller.

CYNTHIANA: Mr. and Mrs. William G. Wigglesworth.

ELIZABETHTOWN: George Elliott, Joan Noel, Blanch Schorr.

FALLS OF THE ROUGH: Joyce Porter, Judith Williams.

GLASGOW: Russell and Faye Starr.

HAZARD: Dennis Sandlin

HODGENSVILLE: Susan Cruse.

LEITCHFIELD: Montelle and Alita Wilson.

LEXINGTON: Brad Andres, Michael and Jean Flynn, Sarah McClellan, Jim and Gerry Williams.

LOUISVILLE: Jane Bell, Patricia Bell, Robert K. Brown, Altha Cain, Herbert and Kathryn Clay, Katherine Colburn, Diane Ebel, Doris Garst, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Martha Pike, William Schoettler, Beatrice Short, Frederick and Anne Stamm, Donald Summerfield, Judi Jones.

MOREHEAD: Fred Busroe.

OWENSBORO: Lani Hamilton, Ramon and Eleanor Iles, Lydia Greenwell, William T. Perkins, Rose Ann Radzelovage, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Worthington, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Wilson.

RICHMOND: Mr. and Mrs. Elliott Charles.

STANLEY: Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Stevenson.

JEFFERSONVILLE, IND.: Larry and Pat Lock, Stuart and Mary Ann Jenkins.

BIRDS OBSERVED AT THE SPRING MEETING, 1986

Birds observed on Saturday field trips include: Green-backed Heron, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Northern Bobwhite, Killdeer, Solitary Sandpiper, Willet, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Barred Owl, Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Acadian Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great-crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Horned Lark, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, House Wren,

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, European Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Palm Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Northern Oriole, Purple Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch, Evening Grosbeak, House Sparrow for a total of 102 species. Ruffed Grouse, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Nashville Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak and Blue Grosbeak were species observed on Sunday. The addition of these species brought the weekend total to 108 species.

BOOK REVIEW

FAMILIES OF BIRDS: A Guide to Bird Classification, Revised Edition, by Oliver L. Austin, illustrated by Arthur Singer. Golden Press, Western Publishing Co., Inc., Racine, Wisconsin, 1985; 200 pp.; \$7.95.

This is another of the Golden Field Guide publications, and it certainly has the aesthetic appeal found in some of the other guides. However, it treats birds at the family level rather than at the species level. A brief introduction is given to world faunal regions, the fossil bird record, and bird evolution. The author considers in phylogenetic sequence the orders and families of birds of the world. Each family description is accompanied by a painting of a member of that family as well as sketches of beaks and feet of some of the families. Each family is briefly described under three categories: distribution, characteristics and habits. Following is the description of the family Columbidae on page 86:

"PIGEONS, DOVES, Columbidae

Distribution: 298 species, 284 living, 5 lately extinct, 38 fossil, to Miocene of France. Worldwide in temperate and tropical regions. Mostly arboreal forest dwellers; some terrestrial in open lands. Many species migratory, especially northern ones.

Characteristics: 6-33". Compact, full-breasted birds with rather short necks and small heads. Bills relatively small and slender, constricted in middle, and with a fleshy cere at base. Colors widely varied. Sexes alike or nearly so.

Habits: gregarious or solitary. Most are strong, fast fliers. Eat seeds, fruit, some insects, worms. Eggs 1-3; usually in a frail platform nest; incubated by both parents. Young fed "pigeons milk" from parent's crop."

The above description is followed by paintings of four species in the family.

This book is of paperback construction with the pages glued into position, so there may be a tendency for pages to drop out with continued use.

I am somewhat confused as to the value of this publication to an experienced birder. Much of the material in the text can be found in 14 pages of *An Introduction to Ornithology*, by Wallace and Mahan, or in other ornithology textbooks. It certainly does not have the value of *Birds of North America*, by Robbins, Bruun, Zim, and Singer, or other species field guides. Perhaps, if someone were acquainted with bird species and desired additional information concerning bird families and characteristics, he might be interested in this publication, but much more detailed information concerning families of birds is available from several sources. It may have appeal to those who might want a short concise presentation, and I am sure that many will be attracted to it because of the superb artistry of Arthur Singer. — H. E. SHADOWEN, Biology Department, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green 42101.

NEWS AND VIEWS

INFORMATION WANTED

SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPERS are being color banded along Plymouth Beach, MA, as part of an ongoing study to estimate turnover rates. Individuals were marked using, red, orange, white, yellow, and green bands. All bands were placed on the lower leg — two on the left and three on the right. No two bands of the same color are adjacent. If you see a marked bird during spring or fall migration, the following information would be appreciated: date, location, color band combination, and number of Semipalmated Sandpipers in the flock. Please send information to MARK J. KASPRZYK, Manomet Bird Observatory, Manomet, MA 02345.

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.