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# The Kentucky Warbler

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## IN THIS ISSUE

RUFFED GROUSE DRUMMING SITES IN EASTERN KENTUCKY, Alexis M. Triquet, William C. McComb and Jeffery D. Sole .....	54
THE NESTING SEASON, SUMMER 1988, Anne L. Stamm .....	61
K.O.S. ANNUAL FALL MEETING .....	67
THE TREASURER'S REPORT, John Krull .....	69
FIELD NOTES .....	72
NEWS AND VIEWS .....	74

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### THE COVER

We thank Philippe Roca for this excellent photograph of an American Goldfinch.

## RUFFED GROUSE DRUMMING SITES IN EASTERN KENTUCKY

ALEXIS M. TRIQUET, WILLIAM C. MCCOMB, AND JEFFERY D. SOLE

During a study of habitat use and mortality of Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*) on the Cumberland Plateau, we identified features of habitat that were selected for drumming sites by male Ruffed Grouse. Previously, Hardy (1950) and Snyder (1973) described drumming sites in eastern Kentucky and West Virginia, respectively, but they did not quantify associated habitat characteristics. Taylor (1976) and Dearden and Durham (1978) examined physical characteristics and topographic locations of drumming logs in Tennessee; Harris (1981) measured the habitat at drumming sites in Georgia; and Thompson *et al.* (1987) studied the drumming, nesting, and brood habitat-types in Missouri. Only Hale *et al.* (1982) and Taylor (1976) have characterized both drumming sites and the vegetation characteristics that comprise suitable drumming habitat in the region.

Hale *et al.* (1982) compared 14 drumming sites in Georgia with an equal number of nearby unused sites. Drumming sites were found among a variety of overstory types and aspects throughout the range of elevations in the area. Physical structure of vegetation apparently determined habitat suitability more than species composition. Discriminant analysis showed that all vegetation layers contributed to suitability conditions, but that the most important characteristics were overhead concealment around the stage and visibility at about 0.5 m above ground level, conditions best provided by ericaceous shrub thickets. Taylor (1976), comparing 129 drumming logs in Tennessee to 37 unused logs, found that high midstory and understory densities characterized the used sites.

In this study, we recorded and compared 34 stage and habitat characteristics at ten drumming sites and seven unused sites in eastern Kentucky with univariate statistics and a new method of discriminant analysis. The objective was to identify those characteristics of stage and habitat that best distinguish occupied and unoccupied sites.

### STUDY AREA

The study was conducted in the 5,880-ha Robinson Forest, Breathitt County, eastern Kentucky. Vegetation is second-growth, uneven-aged, mixed mesophytic forest on steep, well-drained slopes with winding creeks; ridge tops are dry (Overstreet 1984). Elevation ranges from 240 to 430 m above msl. Eighty percent of the forest is on slope gradients greater than 15%.

The vegetation in Robinson Forest has been described by Carpenter and Rumsey (1976). Ridges are dominated by shortleaf pine (*Pinus echinata*), pitch pine (*P. rigida*), chestnut oak (*Quercus prinus*), and scarlet oak (*Q. coccinea*). Slopes are dominated by hickories (*Carya* spp.),

white oak (*Q. alba*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), sourwood (*Oxydendrum arboreum*), yellow-poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), and magnolias (*Magnolia* spp.). Along drainages, American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) and eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) are most common. The shrubs are primarily mountain-laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), rhododendron (*Rhododendron maximum*) and blueberries (*Vaccinium* spp.).

## METHODS

Drumming sites were located from mid-March through May, 1986, and drumming stage and habitat characteristics measured in summer 1986. The log characteristics recorded were length, maximum diameter, angle with respect to slope, shape, decay class (Thomas 1979:80), and hardwood or softwood classification. Altitude of the log on the slope and drumming-stage height were also recorded.

Habitat measurements were made with techniques modified from Noon (1981). All overstory trees ( $\geq 5$  cm dbh) on 0.04-ha circular plots centered on the drumming stages were recorded by species and 5-cm-dbh class. Beginning at plot center, 11-m transects were established in four directions: slope downward, slope upward, and in two directions perpendicular to the slope. To estimate the density of midstory stems, we walked each transect and counted the number of contacts with woody stems  $< 5$  cm dbh and  $> 1.5$  m tall. The number of understory woody stems  $< 5$  cm dbh and  $< 1.5$  m tall was recorded by species on one 1-m-radius subplot established on each transect around a pin 6 m from plot center. Five sightings equidistant along each transect were taken with an ocular sighting tube, and hits and misses on herbaceous vegetation were recorded. Slope and aspect were also recorded.

In order to identify the characteristics of log and habitat that contributed to use by grouse, seven unoccupied logs were subjected to the same survey, except for drumming-stage height, as occupied logs (Hale *et al.* 1982). Unused logs were selected from the same portion of the slope and within 100 m of drumming sites in order to minimize variation in slope portion and overstory type (Hale *et al.* 1982).

Stem densities of tree, shrub, and understory plant species were included in analyses only when relative densities or relative dominance (basal area or cover) of used and unused sites differed more than 50%. Discriminant function analysis (DFA) and *t*-tests identified those variables that separated used from unused sites. A subset of 13 variables that showed trends towards differentiating used and unused sites was used in DFA. The subset of variables were ranked on their ability to predict the degree of separation (Z) between groups (Rayens, personal communication). SAS PROC MATRIX (SAS Institute, Inc. 1982) was used to produce an eigenvalue that described separation between the two groups. Eigenvalues thus measured the discriminatory power. A new eigenvalue was calculated by dropping the variable least able to predict Z. The procedure was repeated until the single best predictor of Z remained. This type of DFA has no distributional context (Rayens, personal communication); therefore the data did not need to be normally distributed.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Drumming activity began on March 16, 1986, and peaked in early April. Ten drumming sites were identified, all in mature forest. Three had an eastern exposure, and the other seven each occupied different exposures. Slopes ( $0^\circ$  to  $25^\circ$ ,  $\bar{x} = 14^\circ$ ) at occupied sites were not as steep as slopes ( $12^\circ$  to  $32^\circ$ ,  $\bar{x} = 22^\circ$ ) at unoccupied sites ( $P < 0.10$ ), which suggests there may be a maximum incline above which grouse find conditions unsuitable (Taylor 1976, Hale *et al.* 1982). Three sites were on ridge-tops, four on the upper portion of the slope, and three at mid-slope. Hardy (1950), Stoll *et al.* (1979), Harris (1981), Taylor (1976) and Thompson *et al.* (1987) among others, have also reported a preference by grouse for drumming on upper slopes.

Seven drumming logs were hardwoods, two were softwoods, and one was unidentifiable. Nine were in the class-3 stage of decomposition, and one in class-2 (maximum decomposition = class-5, Thomas 1979). Only length differed significantly ( $P < 0.1$ ) between used and unused logs, the former being longer (Table 1). Mean log length was 13.5 m (8.0-20.0 m) and mean diameter, 42.5 cm (28-63 cm). Log direction in relation to slope averaged  $64.5^\circ$  ( $40^\circ$ - $90^\circ$ ), distance from butt to stage 4.6 m (0.5-11.5 m), and drumming-stage height 49 cm (38-64 cm). Taylor (1976) reported that similar-sized logs ( $\bar{x} = 9.5$  m long, 33 cm in diameter, and 50 cm above ground) were used for drumming sites in Tennessee. Hardy (1950) reported that most drumming logs used in eastern Kentucky ( $n = 19$ ) were 9-15 m long and 38-50 cm in diameter.

*Vegetation on drumming sites* — Grouse selected drumming sites under a variety of overstory types. Overstory structure was similar on used and unused sites ( $P > 0.1$ ) (Table 1), and plant species composition did not differ significantly between them.

Midstory stem density on used sites was lower than that on unused sites only in the downslope direction ( $P < 0.05$ , Table 1). Both midstory and understory stem densities on the other three transects were equal to or greater than densities at unused sites (Table 1). This structure may give higher visibility in the downslope direction, greater concealment in other directions, and greater ease of escape if birds are flushed from a log. Visibility and concealment factors are important to drumming grouse (Stoll *et al.* 1979, Hale *et al.* 1982).

*Discriminant Analysis* — The 13 variables that were ranked according to their correlation with  $Z$  are shown in Table 2. The indicative results of the  $t$ -test aided in variable selection for DFA; however, discriminant analysis on such a limited data set must be interpreted with caution (Magnusson 1988). No habitat model was proposed in this exploratory study; DFA was used only to describe drumming site habitat in a multivariate context. Correlations ranged from 0.57 for the best predictor, midstory stem density on the downslope transect, to 0.24 for mean diameter of the log. Dropping the poor predictors ( $r < 0.35$ ) did not affect misclassification, which did not exceed 10% for used sites and 14% for unused sites until all but three variables had been dropped (Table 2). Eigenvalues dropped sharply at the very start of the procedure, and continued to decrease significantly until seven variables were left (Fig. 1). Dropping additional variables resulted in a gradual decrease in eigenvalues (Fig. 1).

Table 1. Habitat and log characteristics of drumming sites used by Ruffed Grouse (N = 10) and of adjacent unused sites (N = 7) in Robinson Forest, Kentucky, March-July, 1986.

Variables	Used site		Unused site	
	$\bar{X}$	SE	$\bar{X}$	SE
Slope (°) .....	14.1*	2.6	21.6*	2.9
No. overstory species .....	11.4	0.6	10.6	1.2
No. midstory species .....	10.1	1.1	9.1	0.8
No. understory species .....	9.0	0.8	8.6	0.7
Overstory basal area (m <sup>2</sup> /ha) .....	33.7	3.4	32.4	3.8
Overstory density/0.04 ha				
Deciduous stems .....	63.9	7.0	63.3	9.4
Evergreen stems .....	9.2	4.0	6.6	4.1
Dead stems .....	2.8	0.9	3.9	1.3
Chestnut oak ( <i>Quercus prinus</i> ) .....	4.3	1.2	2.4	1.0
Black oak ( <i>Q. velutina</i> ) .....	4.6	1.3	2.6	0.7
Midstory density/88 m <sup>2</sup>				
Deciduous stems .....	49.3	5.4	46.3	10.9
Evergreen stems .....	4.7	2.1	4.2	4.3
Dead stems .....	5.6	1.5	4.7	0.9
Stems downslope .....	11.7**	1.2	18.6**	2.7
Stems upslope .....	15.1	1.7	14.3	2.4
Stems right .....	17.1	1.1	14.7	2.0
Stems left .....	16.5	2.5	12.6	2.8
Understory density/12 m <sup>2</sup>				
Deciduous stems .....	58.1	7.7	51.4	9.3
Evergreen stems .....	1.9	1.1	7.1	4.8
Dead stems .....	0.3*	0.3	1.9*	0.8
Greenbriar ( <i>Smilax</i> spp.) .....	8.5	2.2	15.7	4.9
Chestnut oak .....	3.6	1.7	0.9	0.6
Serviceberry ( <i>Amelanchier arborea</i> ) ..	2.7	1.1	0.3	0.3
Buffalo nut ( <i>Pyrularia pubera</i> ) .....	2.7	1.6	0.3	0.3
Stems downslope .....	19.5	3.2	18.1	3.8
Stems upslope .....	24.4	2.8	21.9	3.9
Stems right .....	25.5	3.3	21.9	4.9
Stems left .....	16.8	2.8	16.6	1.6
Ground cover, %				
Evergreen herbs .....	4.0	2.3	5.0	3.6
Non-evergreen herbs .....	27.0	4.0	26.4	5.2
Dead wood .....	3.0	1.1	4.3	2.0
Log characteristics				
Length (m) .....	13.5*	1.3	9.9*	1.5
Diameter (cm) .....	42.5	3.3	38.0	2.9
Direction in relation to slope (°) .....	64.5	5.6	36.4	13.8

\* Means differ at  $P < 0.10$ .

\*\* Means differ at  $P < 0.05$ .

Table 2. Eigenvalues and misclassifications of selected variables for differentiating sites used ( $N = 10$ ) and not used ( $N = 7$ ) by Ruffed Grouse as drumming sites in Robinson Forest, Kentucky, March-July, 1986.

Number of variables	Variable names	Misclassifications <sup>a</sup>		Eigenvalue ( $\div 1000$ ) <sup>b</sup>	Correlation with Z
		Used	Unused		
13	Log Diameter .....	0	0	0.397	0.237
12	Overstory chestnut oak density .....	0	0	0.306	0.272
11	Understory buffalo nut density .....	0	0	0.128	0.310
10	Overstory black oak density .....	0	0	0.106	0.312
9	Understory chestnut oak density ..	0	0	0.089	0.317
8	Understory evergreen stem density ..	0	0	0.072	0.322
7	Understory greenbriar density .....	0	1	0.031	0.361
6	Understory serviceberry density .....	1	1	0.025	0.429
5	Log length .....	1	1	0.025	0.440
4	Slope .....	1	1	0.023	0.457
3	Understory dead stem density .....	1	2	0.012	0.481
2	Log direction .....	1	3	0.008	0.501
1	Midstory stem density (downslope transect) .....	1	3	0.007	0.569

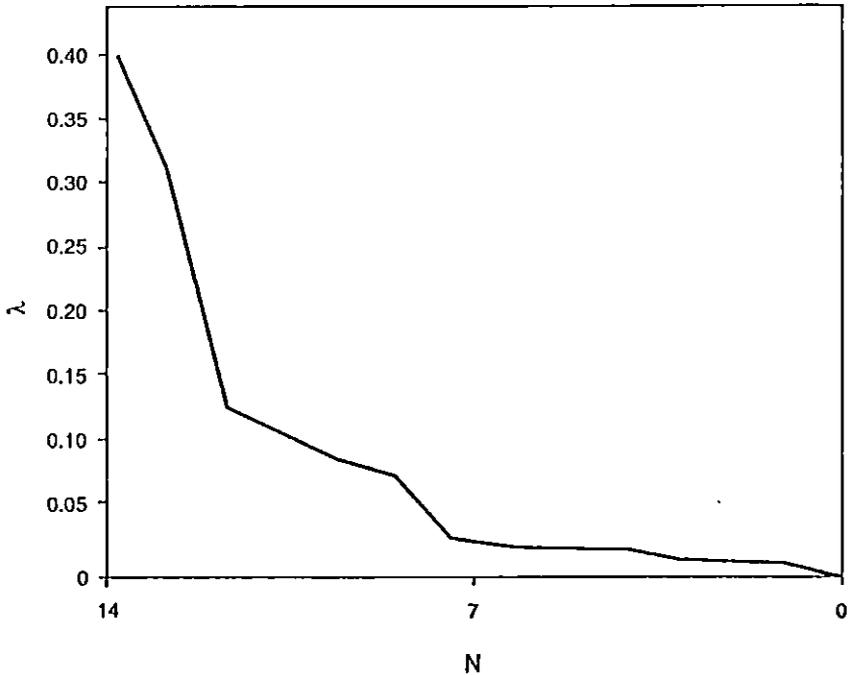
<sup>a</sup> Number of used and unused sites classified incorrectly in discriminant function analysis with the given value and all below it.

<sup>b</sup> A measure of the difference between sites derived with the indicated number of variables.

The dramatic decrease in eigenvalues prevented identification of a subset of variables suitable for differentiating used and unused sites and indicated that all 13 variables contributed to site suitability for drumming. Hale *et al.* (1982) also found that all vegetation layers affected drumming site selection in Georgia. Composition of the overstory and understory, structure of the understory and midstory, log size, and slope apparently contribute collectively to site selection.

### MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Drumming sites identified in this study can be characterized as large, class-3 logs nearly parallel to the contour on gentle mid to upper slopes (11-17°). The areas were dominated by chestnut oak and black oak (*Q. velutina*) with evergreen shrubs and buffalo-nut (*Pyrolularia pubera*) in the understory. Midstory stem density was sparse immediately downslope from the log. This characterization closely follows that for drumming logs provided by Hardy (1950) in eastern Kentucky, Stoll *et al.* (1979) in Ohio and Taylor (1976) in Tennessee, and that for vegetation provided by Hale *et al.* (1982) in Georgia.

Figure 1. Eigenvalues ( $\lambda$ ) as a function of the number of variables (N).

In natural stands, drumming logs are produced by windthrow. When a mature tree (40- to 50-cm dbh) falls in a forest, a dense patch of understory and midstory vegetation develops as a result of sunlight penetration to the forest floor. Because windthrow of trees greater than 40 cm in dbh is unlikely in intensively managed forests, 1 or 2 such logs per hectare should be left after clearcutting in mid and upper slopes to provide suitable drumming stages for grouse. Vegetation structure and composition typical of drumming sites can be provided by patch clearcutting, but some provisions for drumming logs or alternative stages must be made if forests are to be managed for both wood products and Ruffed Grouse.

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## THE NESTING SEASON, SUMMER 1988

ANNE L. STAMM

The months of June and July were dry and hot. Louisville experienced 19 days with temperatures of 90 to 101 degrees during June, and four consecutive days with three digit temperatures (100-103) in July. On June 22 the temperature topped 100 degrees at Paducah, breaking a 36-year old record of 98 degrees for that date, and Lexington hit 99 degrees, breaking a 65-year old record, according to the National Weather Service. Less than an inch of rain fell during June.

Drought conditions prevailed over much of the state, especially in western and central Kentucky. This situation caused farm ponds and creek beds to dry up and rivers to reach low levels.

Despite the intense heat, the summer reports contained an increasing amount of breeding activities of the birds of the state. Alan Barron and Michael Stinson did considerable field work for the Kentucky Breeding Bird Atlas and found some species of summering birds in locations where heretofore they were unknown. Fish Crows were found far north of their normal summer range. Willow Flycatchers and Henslow's Sparrows were observed in new locations. Burt L. Monroe, Jr. discovered a new Bank Swallow colony, Lee McNeely found two new Cliff Swallow colonies, and Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. and Wendell Haag discovered a nest of the Brown Creeper; a first for Kentucky. Another highlight of the season was the discovery of a substantial nesting population of Bell's Vireo, by Alan Barron. Below are the records of many observers.

*Abbreviations* — BWMA = Ballard Waterfowl Management Area, Ballard County; BPS = Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County; PWMA = Peal Wildlife Management Area; SWMA = Sauerheber Wildlife Management Area, Henderson County; SHF = Surrey Hills Farm, Jefferson County.

*Loons through Cormorants* — A Common Loon lingered until "early June," on Carr's Fork, Knott County (DSp), and one remained on Kentucky Lake until June 23 (BPB). An American Pelican, a rare visitant here, was found on the Falls of the Ohio on June 25, by Kathryn Clay. She put out a "bird alert" and several observers were lucky enough to see the bird before it took flight. The only Double-crested Cormorant reported was the one perched on a snag in the Ohio River, ¼ mile upstream from Dam 52, July 31 (CP).

*Hérons* — A single Least Bittern was observed in the Cave Run Lake area, Rowan County, June 1 (DP). Personnel from the Kentucky Nature Preserves Commission and the Nongame Wildlife Program of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources surveyed the Great Blue Heron colonies and found them active and "comparable in total nests to the past year or two." However, the small colony, on Malcolm Creek Bay of Kentucky Lake, appeared to be increasing (BPB). Also, eight Great Blue Herons were seen at PWMA, June 28 and  $\pm$  50 at Lake #9, July 7, with about half immatures (CP); and present, in small numbers, throughout the season at East Bend, Boone County (LMc). Two nests (possibly three)

of Great Egrets were found again at Axe Lake Swamp on June 2 (BPB, W. Haag) and June 23 (BPB, D. Yancey). Other Great Egret records from June 11 through July 31 included the following: nine at PWMA (CP); singles at Lake Pewee (JH) and Long Creek Waterfowl Management Area (CP); one to five at the Falls of the Ohio (LR, DN, DP); and six at SWMA (BPB, D. Ebel). Also,  $\pm$  75 gathered at Lake #9 on July 7 (CP). There were more reports of Little Blue Herons than usual. One was sighted at McAlpine Dam on the early date of June 1 (LR); an adult observed in the Black-crowned Night-Heronry, June 17, may have nested there again this year (BPB); an immature and three adults were seen on the Falls of the Ohio rock ledge, July 26 (LR). Other Little Blue Heron sightings included one at Luczine Lake, Muhlenberg County June 21 (AB); four adults and five juveniles at PWMA, and two adults and two immatures at BWMA, June 28 (CP); On July 31 there were eight immature and three adult Little Blues in Carlisle County (CP), and 25 immatures and one adult at SWMA (BPB, D. Ebel). It appeared that there were three nests of Cattle Egrets in the rookery on Shippingport Island this year (BPB). The only other Cattle Egrets reported were the 18+ (not aged) in Ballard County, about six miles south of Wickliffe, July 31, and an adult in breeding plumage at PWMA, June 28 (CP), A pair of Green-backed Herons nested at Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County (KC); eight were present at the Falls of the Ohio, July 31 (LR) and singles observed in Jefferson and Oldham counties during the period (S). Approximately 300 nests of Black-crowned Night-Herons were found in the colony on Shippingport Island, June 17 (BPB, B. Van Hoff); and the colony at Lake Barkley had decreased and only six nests were found June 23 (BPB, D. Yancy). An immature Black-crowned was noted at East Bend, June 18 (LMc) and two adults were present at a small lake in the Ten Broeck area, Jefferson County, June 6 but were gone the following day (S). The following nests of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were found: two at Shepherdsville (KC, LR); one at Shippingport Island (BPB); and two on Obion Creek, Hickman County (BPB, R. Ciccerello); no report on the Lexington colony was received. Other observations included single adults at PWMA on June 28 and in Muhlenberg County, in a swampy area, where the Illinois Central Railroad crosses SR 70, June 12 (CP); and three adults and four immatures at the Falls of the Ohio in late July (BPB).

*Waterfowl* — The only evidence of nesting waterfowl were Wood Ducks and Mallards. There were two broods of Wood Ducks in Owen County, on June 10, and an adult with nine young at East Bend, May 30 (LMc). Fifty plus were seen in the Mayfield Bottom swamp, Carlisle County, July 31 (CP); and five were present during the summer at BPS (KC). Mallards nested again at East Bend (LMc).

*Hawks* — Adult Ospreys were observed at a nest near Bayou, Livingston County, June 23 and 24 (BPB); and single birds were noted at the Falls of the Ohio, July 16 (KC), July 24 and August 1 (DP). Mississippi Kites were again observed in Fulton County in June and July; two locations in Ballard County and near Mayfield Creek, Carlisle County, July 9 and 31, respectively (CP). An adult Bald Eagle was flushed by accident from trees on the east end of Mitchell Lake, BWMA, July 31 (CP). A pair of Sharp-shinned Hawks was present at Surrey Hills Farm during July, but no nest or young were found (BPB). Atlas workers found single

birds in northeastern Kentucky during July in the following locations: southwest of Burtonville along the Fleming/Lewis County line; near Petersville in Lewis County; several miles south of Garrison in Lewis County; and south of Jeffersonville in Montgomery County (AB, MS). During the month of May an active nest of Cooper's Hawks was found, near Crittenden, Grant County (K. Caminiti *vide* LMc). There were more sightings of Cooper's Hawks this summer than usual and single birds were found in the following counties: Breckinridge, Grayson (KC), Simpson (BPB), Lewis (MS), and Magoffin (AB). Also, a single bird was seen at Spurlington, Taylor County (BPB) and at My Old Kentucky Home State Park, Nelson County (AB). On July 31 an adult and two juvenile Red-shouldered Hawks were observed at BWMA (CP). Strangely enough, the only Broad-winged Hawk reported was one over Butler Lake at BWMA, July 31 (CP). A Krider's Hawk, found in Oldham County, along Hwy. 42, July 31, was unusual, particularly for that time of year (DN). Two American Kestrels and one juvenile were seen in the vicinity of New Providence, Calloway County, July 25 (CP).

*Shorebirds* — Shorebird habitat was limited this summer due to the very dry weather. Numbers were generally low and some species arrived later than normal. A Semipalmated Plover was seen at SWMA on July 31 (BPB). Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs arrived on schedule at Mitchell Lake, July 9 (CP). Greater Yellowlegs were first recorded at the Falls of the Ohio on July 21 (LR, BPB), and at SWMA on July 31 (BPB). Six Lesser Yellowlegs reached the Falls of the Ohio on July 16 (DN) and five at SWMA on July 31 (BPB). A Solitary Sandpiper in breeding plumage, near Dublin, Graves County June 2, was a late spring migrant (CP). Fall Solitary Sandpipers began returning to two locations in Mason County by July 14 (AB). A Willet was discovered at the Falls of the Ohio on July 15-19 (LR); a report of one there July 21, possibly pertained to the same bird (BPB). A Spotted Sandpiper was noted at East Bend throughout June, but no evidence of nesting was observed (LMc); a juvenile was observed at the Falls of the Ohio on July 26 and at least 12 birds were there in "late July" (BPB). A Sanderling was noted at the Falls of the Ohio, July 26 (DP, BPB, AB) and again on August 1 (DP). There were few reports of the Semipalmated Sandpiper: they were present at the Falls of the Ohio, July 21-24 (DP, JK, BPB), with a high count of 26 on July 21 (DP); and one at BWMA on July 31 (CP). Two Western Sandpipers were recorded at the Falls of the Ohio, July 21 (BPB, DP); one there July 23 (BPB). The two Least Sandpipers at Louisville, June 1, were late spring migrants (AB). Fall Least Sandpipers returned to BWMA July 9 (CP) and to the Falls of the Ohio on July 21, with a high there of 25 (BPB); and five were noted at SWMA on July 31 (BPB). The rare White-rumped Sandpiper was present at the Falls of the Ohio, July 21 (DP) and 10-50 Pectoral Sandpipers were there between July 23-26 (JK, BPB). Other Pectoral sightings included one at Lentz's Pond, Jefferson County, July 30 (LR); one at BWMA July 31 (CP); and six at SWMA, July 30 (BPB). The Stilt Sandpiper at the Falls of the Ohio, July 24, was the only one reported (DP). Two to three Short-billed Dowitchers were recorded at the Falls of the Ohio, July 23 and 26 (BPB). The four Dowitcher *spp.* at BWMA, July 9 (CP), and the one below McAlpine Dam, July 12 (LR) were probably Short-billed Dowitchers.

*Gulls* — The Ring-billed Gull is normally rare here in summer, although in recent years a number have been showing up in June. The following Ring-billed Gulls were reported: 43 at Kentucky Lake above the Dam, June 23 (BPB), one at Newburgh Dam in Henderson County, July 31 (BPB, D. Ebel); three at the Falls of the Ohio, June 25 (S, FS); two there June 28 (DN), and one or two remained through July (BPB). Also, two Herring Gulls were still present at the latter location June 1 (LR); one immature there July 28 (DN), and a third-year bird at Kentucky Lake above the Dam, June 23 (BPB). Single Caspian Terns appeared at the Falls of the Ohio, June 25 (LR) and July 21 (DP, BPB); and three there August 1 (DP). The only Common Tern reported was one at Louisville on the Ohio River, July 21 (DP). Also, a Forster's Tern was at the Falls of the Ohio, July 21 (BPB, DP); and two at Newburgh Dam, July 31 (BPB, D. Ebel). A few Least Terns were present at the Smithland Dam in June, and a "stable number" on the Mississippi River (BPB). An adult and a first-year Black Tern were seen flying over the Least Tern colony on the Mississippi River, Carlisle County, June 3 (BPB, W. Haag).

*Doves through Woodpeckers* — Mourning Doves had a good year. A Black-billed Cuckoo was heard in Taylor County on June 26 (BPB); also observed in Greenup County in July (AB, MS). Yellow-billed Cuckoos appeared to be down in numbers (CP) and were seldom heard in the Louisville area (S). A Great Horned Owl nest in Burlington, Boone County, fledged one young, one egg failed to hatch (LMc); three young were observed at Brigadoon, Barren County (RS). Two Chuck-will's-widows were heard at BPS and probably nested there (KC). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds fed regularly at feeding stations in Grayson, Woodford, Hopkins and Jefferson counties (KC, SH, JH, KC, respectively), but no nests were found. A nest, however, was found along Middle Creek, Boone County, June 25. Incubation was noted on July 11 and young in the nest on July 24 (LMc). Red-headed Woodpeckers were observed nesting at two locations in Jefferson County (JK, S). During the month of June the Red-cockaded Woodpecker was discovered at four sites in the southern Daniel Boone National Forest (Dennis Daniel, U.S. Forest Service *vide* BPB). A nest of Pileated Woodpeckers, with young, was found at the Boone County Cliffs Nature Preserve, May 29 (LMc).

*Flycatchers through Creepers* — There were more reports of the Willow Flycatcher this summer than usual and singing birds were found in new locations. These records are probably due to more intensive field work, rather than an increase in the nesting population. During June singing birds were heard in Meade, Trimble and Oldham counties (BPB). Also, Willow Flycatchers were heard singing during the month of July along the Bath/Rowan County line, and in Fleming, Mason, Morgan and Greenup counties in eastern Kentucky (AB, MS). A number of Eastern Phoebe nests were reported: one at Natural Bridge State Park, Powell County; one at Napoleon in Gallatin County; at Union, and at Big Bone State Park, in Boone County (LMc). A singing Horned Lark was heard near New Liberty in Owen County, June 11, where records are few (LMc). The large colony of Purple Martins in Ballard County was reduced to about 20 pairs as compared to at least 75 pairs in 1984 (S, DS, FS); also a decrease in the Seneca Park, Louisville colony to two or three pairs while a large post-breeding concentration consisted of 4000 at Shippingport

Island, July 16 (DN). Small numbers of Tree Swallows were seen at Axe Lake Swamp on June 2 (BPB), and at East Bend, June 18 (LMc); two broods were raised near Crittenden, Grant County (K. Caminiti *vide* LMc). The Bank Swallow colonies near Petersburg and Belleview in Boone County, were again successful (LMc); one colony in Carroll County had 40-50 burrows and the other was inactive (S, FS). A new Bank Swallow colony found in Meade County, April 30 (BM), contained 75 active nesting burrows in late May (BPB). Fair numbers of Cliff Swallows nested in Kentucky this year. The colony at Barkley Dam had some 140+ nests (S, DS, FS); some 40 active nests in the Gunpowder colony, Boone County, and 35 nests in the Markland Dam colony (LMc); two new colonies under bridges in Gallatin County, with 40 and 60 nests, respectively (LMc); one near Hillsboro in Fleming County (MS); and nesting observed on the bridge over Rough River, Grayson/Breckinridge County line (BPB).

A nest of American Crows was discovered at Burlington, where two young were successfully fledged on June 9 (LMc). The Fish Crow has been known to be an uncommon summer resident along the Mississippi River and lower Ohio River as far upstream as Paducah. This summer there was a dramatic move northward. An adult bird was seen and heard near Henderson, just east of the bridge, June 16 (AB); several heard calling on a sandbar upstream from the Shawneetown Bridge, July 29 (R. Cicerello, W. Haag *vide* BPB). Mike Stinson reported two adults along Green River at the ferry site, near Pleasant Valley, along the Henderson/McLean County line, June 24. Other birds heard farther south included one at Smithland Dam, June 24 (BPB) and several in Mayfield Bottom, Carlisle County (CP). Brown Creepers were found nesting at the Axe Lake Swamp on June 2 and represents the first breeding record for the state (BPB, W. Haag).

*Wrens through Shrikes*—Bewick's Wrens were observed on June 11 at two locations in Grant County and at one location in Owen County. A singing bird was still present on July 2 at one of the Grant County locations (LMc), and another heard near Hensley, Breckinridge County, June 6 (AB). A singing male Sedge Wren was observed near Tar Fork, Breckinridge County, June 6 (AB); and seven territorial males singing along Hardy and Muddy Sloughs on SWMA, July 31 (BPB, D. Ebel). Cedar Waxwings had a good year and were present during the period in much of the state (m.ob.). Two immature Loggerhead Shrikes were noted at Skylight, Oldham County, July 23 (LR); and an adult with two young in Nelson County, July 23 (BM) were the only nesting observations reported.

*Vireo, Warblers*—Quite a surprise was the sighting of at least 10 singing male Bell's Vireos scattered about the Breckinridge Job Corps center near Waverly, Union County, June 13; some females present too (AB); 12 heard singing in Union County, June 19 (BM), and one bird present west of Ekron, Meade County, in "early June" (AB, MS). A nest of Yellow-throated Vireos with young birds, was found at General Butler State Park, Carroll County, May 26 (LMc). A nest of Yellow Warblers was reported from the Hunting Creek Golf Course, Prospect, Jefferson County, mid-June (JK). A Blue-winged Warbler was seen feeding young out of the nest, near Middle Creek, June 25 (LMc); adult birds and Golden-winged were also noted in Lawrence County, July 15 (AB). A

male Brewster's Warbler was heard singing in the same location, July 15 (AB). Fledged young Pine Warblers were noted in Nelson County, June 28 (AB) and also a singing bird recorded at Mammoth Cave National Park, July 31 (RS). Swainson's Warblers were on territory, at least in three locations in June, with a family group also observed in July in the Red River Gorge vicinity (T. Towles, M. Medley *vide* BPB). An Ovenbird nest was under construction, May 16, at the Boone County Nature Preserves (LMc). Nest building of the Kentucky Warbler was noted at Natural Bridge State Park, May 14 (LMc). Parent birds were observed feeding fledged Common Yellowthroats at Middle Creek, June 25 (LMc).

*Tanager through Finches*—The two Scarlet Tanagers heard singing, June 18 in Hopkins County, probably nested there (JH). There were more reports on the Blue Grosbeak than usual. On the Joy Breeding Bird Survey Route in Livingston County, June 24, a total of 20 birds was tallied at 18 stops (BPB). Blue Grosbeaks were recorded during June and July in the following counties: Hopkins (JH), Bullitt (DP), Nelson (several on territory—BM), Owen (LMc), Bath, Carter, Elliott, Fleming, Boyd, Mason, Morgan, Rowan, Lewis and Greenup (AB, M. Stinson *vide* BPB). A number of these records are due to the Kentucky Breeding Bird Atlas work. Two male Bachman's Sparrows were again present in Calloway County during the period (CP). The rare Lark Sparrow was encountered, near Corner's, Breckinridge County, June 6 (AB, M. Stinson). Two Savannah Sparrows (territorial males) were observed in a pasture approximately three miles south of Ballardsville, Oldham County on June 16 (BPB, D. Ebel); and a pair, one "carried food and was agitated," about one mile Northeast of Tollesboro, Lewis County, July 13 (AB). This sighting indicates the first known breeding record for Lewis County. Grasshopper Sparrows were found during June and July at several locations in Owen County (LMc). There were a number of interesting records of Henslow's Sparrows this summer: at least four singing males, near Orangeburg, Mason County, July 13 (AB); two pairs, 2½ miles north of West Liberty, along Elk Fork, Morgan County, July 23 (AB); one singing, near Grayson Springs, Grayson County, and two heard, approximately two miles southeast of Clarkson, Grayson County, June 10 (BPB, AB); also present in Breckinridge County in June (AB, M. Stinson); and two to three males singing north of Petersville, Lewis County, in mid-July (AB, M. Stinson). The Song Sparrow was found to be "almost common" in Mayfield Bottoms, Carlisle County (CP); also recorded at six locations in the Madisonville area (JH), but still not common at the Elk Creek Bridge vicinity (JH). Two male Bobolinks were noted southwest of Eminence, Shelby County on June 16 and may have nested there (BPB); also observed in June in Bourbon County (M. Flynn *vide* BPB). The sighting of a male Dark-eyed Junco southwest of Willard, Carter County, July 12 (AB) was most unusual, and may have been a post-breeding stray. There were two reports of nesting Orchard Orioles: one in Henry County, and one in Boone County (LMc). Also, a pair of Northern Orioles raised young at BPS (KC). House Finches had a good year, with breeding observed in the following locations: Burlington (several locations—LMc); South Louisville, several nests (WJ); Ten Broeck area, young out of nest (S). Summer birds were seen in the following locations: in Ashland and Flatwoods, Boyd County; near Salem in Morgan County; near Counts Crossroads in Carter County; in Greenup, Greenup County; in Maysville, Mason County; in Mount Sterling, Montgomery County; and in Lewis County (AB). Some of the above information represents new summer county records.

*Contributors* — Alan Barron (AB); Kathryn Clay (KC); James W. Hancock (JH); Smith Hundley (SH); Wilbur Jackson (WJ); John Krull (JK); Lee McNeely (LMc); Burt L. Monroe, Jr. (BM); Doxie Noonan (DN); Donald Parker (DP); Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB); Clell Peterson (CP); Lene Rauth (LR); Russell Starr (RS); Anne L. Stamm (S); F. W. Stamm (FS); Michael Stinson (MS); Donald Summerfield (DS).

— 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40241.

## THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

### FALL MEETING — SEPTEMBER 30 — OCTOBER 2, 1988

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its 65th annual Fall Meeting at Kentucky Dam Village State Park on September 30 - October 2, 1988.

Jim Williams welcomed members and guests to the Friday evening session, held in the lodge meeting room. Virginia Kingsolver outlined the program and introduced the evening's speakers. Clell Peterson presented a brief history of the Land Between the Lakes area. Ed Ray updated the Bald Eagle and Osprey hacking programs in the LBL. Blaine Ferrell and Jeff Jones presented information on nesting birds at strip mining pits in Muehlenberg County. Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. concluded the program with a report on the first documented nesting of Brown Creepers in Kentucky and slides of the Pomarine Jaeger taken in 1987 at Kentucky Dam. Times and sites of Saturday morning field trips were reviewed.

Steady rain greeted birders on Saturday morning, who participated on field trips to Smithland Dam and various areas of the Land Between the Lakes.

The Board of Directors met in the lodge at 3:30 P.M.

The Saturday evening program was held in the lodge meeting room beginning at 7:30 P.M. Dr. Steve White was the evening speaker, providing an interesting program on Bald Eagle populations in the lower Ohio River valley. Donald Summerfield made members aware of the availability of the "Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Kentucky" and thanked the authors for their work on this project. The Nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers for the coming year which were approved: President — Jim Williams, Vice President — Virginia Kingsolver, Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer — John Krull, Recording Secretary — Lee McNeely, and new Councillors — Gary Ritchison and Jeff Jones.

Additional birds seen on Sunday brought the weekend total to 108 species. Total registrations for the Fall Meeting were 50.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lee McNeely  
Recording Secretary

## BIRDS RECORDED ON FIELD TRIPS DURING THE FALL MEETING AT KENTUCKY DAM VILLAGE STATE PARK

SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 2, 1988

Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, American Wigeon, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Sharp-shinned Hawk\*, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, Sora\*, American Coot, Killdeer, Common Snipe, Laughing Gull, Franklin's Gull, Bonaparte's Gull\*, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Caspian Tern\*, Forester's Tern\*, Black Tern, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood Pewee, Eastern Phoebe, Horned Lark\*, Tree Swallow\*, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow\*, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren, House Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Water Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, European Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler\*, Bay-breasted Warbler, Black-and-White Warbler, American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, Summer Tanager\*, Scarlet Tanager\*, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Purple Finch\*, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow. Those species marked by an asterisk were observed on Sunday. The species total for the meeting was 108.

### ATTENDANCE AT THE FALL MEETING, 1988

BOWLING GREEN: Dr. and Mrs. Blaine Ferrell, Jeff Jones, Mr. and Mrs. William Mathes

BURLINGTON: Mr. and Mrs. Lee McNeely, Tom Stevens

CARLISLE: Dr. and Mrs. Wendell Kingsolver

ELIZABETHTOWN: Betty Boone, Susan Cruse, Joan Noel

FRANKFORT: Howard Jones

HAZARD: Donnie Spencer

LEXINGTON: Robert Morris, Andrew Uterhart, Jim Williams

LOUISVILLE: Kathryn Clay, John Krull, Dr. Burt Monroe, Jr., Dr. Robert Noonan, Doxie Noonan, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Don Parker, Mr. and Mrs. Frances Shannon, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Don Summerfield, Virginia Osborn, Julia Woolridge

MOREHEAD: Dr. Fred Busroe

MURRAY: Happy Chambers, Sally Leedom, Michael Miller, Clell Peterson

OWENSBORO: Mary Lydia Greenwell, Neal Haydon, Janet Howard, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Powell, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Wilson

PADUCAH: Mrs. Damon Cadell

STANLEY: Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Stevenson

DYERSBURG, TN: Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Leggett

JEFFERSONVILLE, IN: Lene Rauth

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## REPORT OF TREASURER FISCAL YEAR 1987-88

### GENERAL FUND

Bank Balance, September 8, 1987  
(1st National of Louisville) ..... \$2,450.16

#### Receipts

Membership Dues .....	\$2,365.00	
Interest Income:		
Endowment Fund .....	410.02	
Gordon Wilson Fund .....	128.51	
Gift: (Wm. Rowe in memory of Joe Croft) .....	100.00	
Meetings .....	1,132.26	
Sale of Checklists, Patches, etc. ....	67.52	
Horner book donation .....	595.25	
Transfer from Gordon Wilson .....	1,372.00	
(Annotated Checklist)		
Sale of Annotated Checklists .....	716.20	6,886.76
	6,886.76	\$9,336.92

**Disbursements**

Printing Costs (KY Warbler — 5 Issues) .....	\$2,272.69	
Envelopes .....	148.75	
Meetings .....	978.59	
Postage .....	354.62	
Transfer of (2) Life Membership (Endowment) .....	150.00	
Transfer of Interest to Gordon Wilson .....	128.51	
Transfer of Checklist to Gordon Wilson .....	716.20	
Bank Charge .....	3.15	
Corporation Filing Fee .....	4.00	
Printing of Annotated Checklist .....	1,372.00	
Supplies .....	53.70	
Safe Deposit Box Rental .....	65.00	6,247.21
		<hr/>
Bank Balance, September 28, 1988 .....		\$3,089.71
		<hr/> <hr/>

**ENDOWMENT FUND**

Balance in Savings (Future Federal), September 1, 1987 .....		\$1,984.12
<b>Certificates of Deposit:</b>		
2 @ \$1,000.00 Great Financial Federal .....	2,000.00	
1 @ 1,500.00 Future Federal .....	1,500.00	
1 @ 1,000.00 Future Federal .....	1,000.00	
		<hr/>
		\$6,454.12
<b>Receipts:</b>		
Interest on CD's .....	410.02	
Interest on Savings .....	143.05	
Life Membership (2) .....	150.00	703.07
		<hr/>
		7,187.19
<b>Disbursements:</b>		
Transfer on CD Interest to General Fund .....	410.02	
		<hr/>
		\$6,777.17
		<hr/> <hr/>
Balance in Fund, September 29, 1988		
CD's (4) .....	\$4,500.00	
Balance in Savings, September 29, 1988 .....	2,277.17	
		<hr/>
		\$6,777.17
		<hr/> <hr/>

### GORDON WILSON FUND

Balance in Savings, September 1, 1987 .....		\$1,623.40
Certificates of Deposit		
2 @ \$1,000.00 Great Financial Federal .....		2,000.00
		<hr/>
		\$3,623.40
<b>Receipts:</b>		
Interest on Savings .....	92.84	
Interest on CD's .....	128.51	
Sale of Annotated Checklists .....	716.20	937.55
		<hr/>
		\$4,560.95
<b>Disbursements:</b>		
Printing Cost of Annotated Checklists .....		1,372.00
		<hr/>
		\$3,188.95
		<hr/>
Balance in Fund, September 29, 1988		
CD's (2) .....		2,000.00
Balance in Savings, September 29, 1988 .....		1,188.95
		<hr/>
		\$3,188.95
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### NET WORTH

Balance in General Fund, September 29, 1988 .....	\$3,089.71
Balance in Endowment, September 29, 1988 .....	\$6,777.17
Balance in Gordon Wilson Fund .....	\$3,188.95
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	\$13,055.83
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— John Krull, Treasurer

## FIELD NOTES

### OBSERVATIONS OF A

#### POLYGYNOUS WOOD DUCK (*Aix sponsa*) FAMILY THROUGH A BREEDING SEASON IN CENTRAL KENTUCKY

During 1987, the author had the opportunity to observe an isolated Wood Duck clan (1 male, 2 females, and 24 ducklings) on a small stream in Bourbon County, in the central Bluegrass region of Kentucky. Observations were made on a regular basis throughout the breeding season. The presence of Wood Ducks on this small, seasonally-running stream was a surprise—the stream is very near a rural state highway and is surrounded by pasture-land, with only scattered trees along its banks; the isolation and openness of this nesting area, however, did favor the making of these observations. Only when the ducklings were able to make the journey of a mile downstream to the junction of this stream with the much larger Hinkston Creek (which has well-wooded banks and a good Wood Duck population) could they reach any other suitable habitat. Only the most pertinent observations are reported.

A Wood Duck pair was first seen for the year in this area on May 5. They were swimming closely together on the creek, near the only nest-tree to be found in the vicinity: a sycamore on the creek bank with a cavity some 20 feet above the water. On May 12, the duck (female #1) was seen swimming beneath this tree with many newly-hatched ducklings in tow. The drake was not nearby, but was sighted that day swimming alone in a small, half-acre impoundment a quarter-mile downstream. This impoundment ("the pond") is also adjacent to the road, from which practically all its shore may be viewed, there being only a little brushy cover at its upper end.

On May 19, female #1 had taken her brood downstream to the pond, where they could be easily counted; the observer determined that there were 16 ducklings. On this date the drake was on the far end of the pond, but was ignoring female #1 and her young. The drake was swimming closely (in bonded fashion) with a new duck (female #2). Although not confirmed absolutely, the individual markings of this drake lead to a confident assertion that the same male Wood Duck was involved in all of these observations. On May 26, female #1 and her rapidly-growing brood were on the pond, but the drake was nowhere to be seen. (Nor was he seen at any later time, perhaps having flown down to Hinkston Creek, soon to begin molting to eclipse plumage.) Female #2 had also disappeared from view on this date.

On June 2, female #1 — with her large brood — was at one end of the pond, and female #2 had returned to the other end of the pond with seven newly-hatched ducklings. Then and later, the two ducks seemed to tolerate each other well but kept careful watch on their own broods, which were at all times kept apart from each other. On June 5, female #1 with 15 ducklings and female #2 with seven ducklings still shared the pond, though it was first noted on this date that some of the larger ducklings were venturing farther from their mother (female #1) and were responding less to her anxious calls.

By July 6, female #2 was still managing to keep her six surviving ducklings in tow, but the older ducklings of family #1 were scattered all about the pond, independently or in small groups. By July 14, female #1 had abandoned the pond and only seven of her ducklings, now almost fully grown, remained there. On this date female #2 remained, but her ducklings were now scattered all about the pond.

At July's end, all the Wood Ducks — adults and ducklings — had left the pond, but some interesting points may be gleaned from their having been observed:

(1) The Wood Duck drake appears to have mated successfully with two females whose nestlings left their nests about three weeks apart. Only one nesting cavity in the area was located, and two Wood Duck females have been known to incubate simultaneously in the same nest (Fuller and Bolen, *Wilson Bull.* 74:94-95, 1963), though this was not observed here. Indeed, in one instance in Iowa (Bent, *Life Histories of North American Wild Fowl*, p. 162, 1923), a nest was found which contained 31 Wood Duck eggs and five Hooded Merganser eggs; thus nest-sharing has extended even to another species. Since the incubation of Wood Duck eggs require 28-30 days (Bent, *Life Histories of North American Wild Fowl*, p. 162, 1923), positing the successive use of this nest would require the presence of two differently-aged egg-groups in the same nest, which does not seem likely. Perhaps there was an undiscovered second nest-cavity in the area; future observations may settle this point.

(2) In both instances, the drake was completely dissociated from the female and her young from the time they left the nest; indeed, he left the area entirely once his second set of offspring had hatched, the females assuming entire responsibility for the care of their young.

(3) Dispersal of young ducklings in both instances began about four weeks after their hatching (when the boldest began straying from their mother's entourage) and was completed by eight weeks after hatching, when the ducklings were completely independent in the absence of their mothers.

(4) Survival of the young ducklings was remarkably good in these observations. As late as 4 weeks after hatching, when dispersal was beginning (the last time an accurate count of the young could be made), 15 of the original 16 of brood #1 were alive and well, as were six of brood #2's original seven. They survived despite the known presence of predators (many large turtles, including snappers — *Chelydra serpentina*, were seen about the pond all summer) and the lack of protective cover in the area. Such breeding success may explain why the Wood Duck is the most numerous breeding duck in the eastern United States (Farrand, *The Audubon Society Master Guide to Birding*, p. 152), and gives much encouragement to hope for survival of this beautiful and remarkable avian species into the future, even in an environment so altered by human use as the Bluegrass region of Kentucky.

### TAME SANDHILL CRANE VISITS IN KNOTT COUNTY

In June of 1988 a Sandhill Crane, age and sex unknown, landed on a farm in northern Knott County. The farmer herded the bird into an outbuilding and notified the Corps of Engineers. Ranger Cordell Gayheart picked up the bird, then moulting, and took it to a marshy area in the Littcarr Recreation Area on Carrs Fork Lake in the southern part of the county. The bird has a transmitter on its left leg and a band on the right. Ranger Gayheart has sent the band number off but has yet heard nothing as to how the bird came to be banded. The antenna on the transmitter has been damaged since the bird's arrival.

The bird does sometimes fly about the narrow Carrs Fork Lake, but it is as tame as a chicken with visitors to the picnic spot, some of whom make special trips to bring food — chiefly bread — to the bird. Its behavior leads Ranger Gayheart to believe that it was perhaps raised in captivity and released into the wild. He has not seen any Sandhill Cranes in Knott County before, even in flight.

As of October 8, the bird is still where it has been all summer and residents of the area wonder "what happens now?"

— MARQUITA GILLENWATER, P.O. Box 526, Glasgow, KY 42141.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### ANNOTATED CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF KENTUCKY IS READY

Just a reminder that the *Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Kentucky* by Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Anne L. Stamm and Brainard L. Palmer-Ball, Jr. is ready for purchase from the K.O.S. Please, make checks payable to the K.O.S. in the amount of \$6.00 (5.00 for K.O.S. members) plus 5% sales tax if you are a Kentucky resident. Orders should be sent to the Kentucky Ornithological Society, 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville, Kentucky 40241.

### CORRECTION

In the field note on Short-eared Owls in the August 1988 issue of *The Kentucky Warbler*, 17 owls were observed on February 14, not seven.

### MIDWINTER BIRD COUNTS

Those members who have participated in the midwinter bird counts in the past should already have received your count forms. The counts this year should be conducted between December 16 and January 3. If you are interested in conducting a count and would like additional information, please contact the editor.