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The Kentucky Warbler

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Flickers at Nesting Box, Photograph by Mabel Slack

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MR. CHEEK IS NEW LIFE MEMBER

John Adamson Cheek, our newest Life Member, was born in Danville, Kentucky, on October 7, 1915. He was graduated from Danville High School in 1933 and did his undergraduate work at Centre College, graduating there in 1937. He has done graduate work at Cornell Medical College, the University of Chicago, and at the University of Kentucky. He was granted the Master of Science degree by the University of Kentucky in 1952, his master's thesis being "Birds of the Danville, Kentucky, Area: A Study of Summer Populations." Mr. Cheek is now on the staff of the biology department of Pikeville College, Pikeville, Kentucky. Welcome, John, to our rapidly growing list of Life Members!

DR. BARBOUR TO ORIENT

Dr. Roger W. Barbour, of the University of Kentucky, long one of our members, has been appointed to a professorship at the University of Indonesia, at Bandung, Java, for a two-year tenure. He and his family will sail from New York on July 12 for Europe for a brief stay at Heidelberg, Germany, and then on to his far-away destination. While in the Far East, he will teach Histology and Comparative Anatomy. He laughingly says that he hopes to do three things on this trip: learn how to lecture in the language of the country, shoot a tiger, and shoot an elephant. Good luck on all three counts, Roger!
CHARLES WICKLIFFE BECKHAM, ORNITHOLOGIST *

By Harvey B. Lovell

Charles Wickliffe Beckham was the first native Kentuckian to achieve a national reputation as an ornithologist. His collections were in part deposited in the U. S. National Museum and in part given to the Louisville City Museum. Many of his birds were mounted by James S. Speed and exhibited at Central Park, the Boy Scout Camp, and in the City Museum. In recent years the bird students in Louisville named their bird club in his honor and his brother presented to the club a collection of his bird books.

Beckham was born at his mother’s ancestral home Wickliffe, near Bardstown on August 1, 1856, and died of tuberculosis June 8, 1888. His mother was the daughter of Governor Charles C. Wickliffe of Kentucky, and his father was a lawyer and later a member of the Kentucky General Assembly. His uncle was governor of Louisiana, and later his own brother, J. C. W. Beckham, became governor of Kentucky.

Young Charles was born into an atmosphere of prosperity and success. He seems to have developed a large measure of self-confidence at an early age, as shown by the promptness with which he published his ornithological findings, a valuable trait in one whose life was destined to be so short.

He was educated at a private school in Bardstown and when only sixteen years old attended the University of Virginia for the year 1872-73. While there he took courses in “mathematics, applied mathematics, natural philosophy, mineralogy, and geology” according to a letter from the librarian at the University.

Next the young man worked under Professor Shaler in the Kentucky Geology Survey for two years. When Shaler moved to Harvard University to accept a professorship, Beckham accompanied him and spent a year in scientific studies. Such was his scientific education.

Because of the political influence of his family, no doubt, the Honorable J. Proctor Knott of Kentucky appointed young Beckham clerk of the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives at Washington, where he remained four years, from 1876 to 1880. During the years 1879 and 1880 he attended Columbian Law School, now affiliated with George Washington University in Washington, D. C. The registrar writes that Beckham “Did not receive a degree here, but was classified as a Junior in the Law School.”

At about the age of twenty, the young man began to keep notes on birds and to collect specimens around his home at Bardstown in Nelson County, at least during the time Congress was not in session. We do not know how he got his first interest in birds or how he learned to make bird skins, but he must have had some training, as his skins are very well made. The earliest published record of a bird collected by Beckham was April 28, 1877. This was a Bachman’s Sparrow, a note on which was published in the Journal of the Cincinnati Society of Natural History in 1881, a society which he must have joined a year or two before.

However, Beckham’s first publication appeared in Forest and Stream in 1880, in which he described the capture of two Coots. He again wrote about these two birds in the July 14, 1881, issue of the

* Contribution No. 4 (New Series) of the Department of Biology of the University of Louisville.
same journal in an article entitled "Two Tame Coots." He had kept them during the winter in a basement room, feeding them chiefly on corn bread. Later they were given the run of the yard and remained there "as tame as chickens."

In April, 1881, Beckham made a trip to Florida and while there collected a "Black-throated Bunting (Spiza americana)" at Fernandina. He published this in the Nuttall Bulletin (1882c) and described his find as follows: "While walking along the fence row of an old field looking for Shrikes and Ground Doves, I heard the familiar note of the well-dressed Bunting in a small field near the fence. He was immediately secured, but although I searched diligently for others, none were found." This was the first Florida record for this species.

What Beckham did from 1880 to 1882, other than study birds, is a mystery, as there is no record of his having a job during that time. He collected birds at Bardstown off and on during these three years and published several articles on birds. Dr. Landon, editor of the Journal of the Cincinnati Society of Natural History, quotes from a letter written by Beckham which described the collection of a Mockingbird on January 25, 1882. He evidently considered the winter occurrence of a Mockingbird noteworthy at that time. In the spring of 1882 young Beckham recorded the arrival of birds at Bardstown from March 3 to April 10 and noted that many species arrived earlier than usual. This was promptly published in the above-mentioned Journal (1882a).

Beckham was in Bardstown on April 10, 1882, and in Louisiana on the 15th of the same month. He must have left Kentucky on the 11th or 12th and arrived at his uncle's home at Bayou Sara on the 14th, for he writes that he was in the field all day on the 15th. He described his uncle's estate, "Wyoming," as "a place possessing peculiar agreeable ornithological associations on account of its former owner, Gen. Dawson, having entertained Audubon as his guest for several months." Beckham hunted birds intensively for five days from April 15 to April 19, inclusive, and he recorded that "A great deal of ground was canvassed in that time. A good many birds were shot but few were preserved, as taxidermy was necessarily subordinated to field-work." His results were promptly published in the Nuttall Bulletin (1882b) and compared with lists made in Louisiana by Dr. Landon and Mr. Hay. Clutches of eggs were collected by Beckham for many species, including the Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Cardinal, and Kingfisher. He displayed considerable familiarity with southern trees and described many of the habitats in which the birds were collected. He was accompanied during these five days by a young man from his uncle's estate, Robert Wederstraudt, of whom he spoke highly, as "a young man whose unusually close and accurate observations of birds and bird life rendered his help particularly valuable. Many of the following notes are credited to him entirely." These were chiefly notes on game birds. Altogether, 86 species were reported from the area.

Beckham published his first comprehensive paper on Kentucky birds in the Journal of the Cincinnati Society of Natural History for July, 1883. The article consisted of an annotated list of 167 species based on five years of field work. This paper was reviewed in the Nuttall Bulletin by the editor, J. A. Allen, who wrote, "This list is well printed and evidently carefully prepared." However, Dr. Allen criticized the way in which Beckham referred to the arrival and departure of the transients, pointing out that it was not clear from Beckham's statements whether they remained in Kentucky in the summer or migrated farther north.
Beckham spent most of the year 1883 in Pueblo, Colorado, where he continued the study and collection of birds while engaged in "mer-cantile pursuits." He wrote that most of his collecting was done in the spring. This resulted in a five-page paper in the second volume of the Auk (1885b), containing information on 91 species. The two-year interval between the research and the publication of the data was much longer than Beckham usually needed to assemble his facts, but there was a reason as discussed below.

A great event occurred in the life of the young man in 1884. He became an assistant in the Department of Birds at the National Museum in Washington. Here was his opportunity to become trained in ornithology under Robert Ridgway, one of America's top ornithologists, and to work with one of the largest and most rapidly growing collections of bird skins. The young man applied himself diligently to his work and appeared to have found his niche in life at last. In the Report of the Smithsonian Institution for 1884 appears the following comment. "Mr. C. W. Beckham, until July 1, assisted Captain Bendire in the arrangement and cataloging of the ornithological collection and after that date rendered efficient aid in preparation of the New Orleans exhibit." Captain Bendire had just recently presented his extensive egg collection to the museum and personally assisted in the arrangement and cataloging of the famous collection. Beckham had the splendid opportunity of working both with Captain Bendire and with Dr. Stejneger, the latter just beginning his long career with the National Museum.

Beckham continued with the work of the museum in 1885, as shown by the following statement in the Report for that year: "The invoicing of specimens in the reserve or study series (skins only) by Mr. C. W. Beckham, has been completed through the first series (or type series) and through the Turdidae, Sylviidae... and part of the Mniotilidae, of the second series, the total number of specimens invoiced being 2,655. This work, which has included the writing and typing on each specimen of a new standard museum label, with all the data and the name according to the most modern nomenclature and a special red label on every type specimen, has been done by Mr. Beckham during intervals between his regular routine work, such as cataloging collections received, etc., and represents a very large amount of labor."

The rapidly developing ornithologist must have learned a great deal about birds from this extensive program of labeling over 2500 specimens, including the type series. Later Dr. Ridgway wrote, "Mr. Beckham proved an intelligent and able assistant, while his gentle, genial, and unassuming manners, and gentlemanly deportment won him the genuine regard of his associates."

Beckham continued his work in the museum, but in the next Report the exact nature of this work is not indicated. However, it can be assumed he continued the gigantic task of cataloging and relabeling all the bird skins. In the Smithsonian Report of 1885, Dr. Ridgway writes; "The curator desires to acknowledge the valuable services performed by the assistants who have been appointed or assigned to his department, Dr. Leonard Stejneger, assistant curator, Mr. C. W. Beckham and Mr. Hugh M. Smith, who have performed their respective duties with their usual efficiency and faithfulness."

Young Beckham found time for some local collecting while working at the National Museum. On September 6, 1884, he collected a Western Sandpiper at Virginia Beach, Virginia, a note on which he
in the *Auk* (1885e). A few months later he took a White-winged Junco in Howard County, Maryland, on February 1, 1885.

In 1885 his paper on central Kentucky birds was reissued in a greatly expanded form by the Kentucky Geological Survey. In addition to giving a very interesting and useful picture of bird life in central United States 75 years ago, it gives us an opportunity to analyze Beckham's style of writing when not restricted by the requirements of a scientific journal. The paper contains many amusing anecdotes as well as much local folklore about birds. A few quotations will furnish an idea of the style and content.

In regard to the Chat, he writes: "If birds were not known to be temperance folks, the Chat would be accused of alcoholism, for this would be a very logical explanation of his absurd squawkings and clown-like gyrations in midair when the nuptial ecstacy is upon it."

Referring to the use of the colloquial name "Ortolan" for the Cedar Waxwing, he notes that this name is applied to four other birds. "It is suggested that those who contend for a vernacular nomenclature, instead of a Latin and Greek one, put this in their pipes and smoke it."

He recognizes the crow as a most intelligent bird and writes, "He has no friends, and apparently does not want any, for he increases and multiplies in the face of the most unrelenting persecution. He knows the range of every gun in his bailiwick and in him the farmer's unsnaily 'scarecrow' excites no emotions save those of derision and contempt."

He goes even further afield in his comments on the Blue Jay, for which he apparently had a low opinion: "The popular belief that he is in league with the devil and visits his sulphurous majesty every Friday to report to him and consult upon mundane affairs, is aptly supported by his wicked disposition and general cussedness."

This paper was also issued in book form and was apparently intended for popular consumption, especially in Kentucky, where no comprehensive bird study had appeared before. In his other writings Mr. Beckham is more reserved and usually purely factual.

It was apparently at this time that Beckham, now 29 years old, was stricken with tuberculosis, too often a deadly disease in the 19th century. In an effort to regain his health, he devoted the next year almost entirely to field work in ornithology. He spent the summer at Bardstown, as shown by several published articles based on collections made there. On June 21, he collected a Summer Tanager and described its first plumage, hitherto unknown, in the *Auk* (1886). On July 16, he took a Red-breasted Nuthatch at Bardstown, an unusual summer record (*Auk*, 1886). On September 13 he discovered a Philadelphia Vireo caught in a cobweb (not published until 1888a). He also wrote a letter to the editor of the *Auk* about "The scarcity of adult birds in autumn" which was published in 1877, in which he states that between September 1 and November 22 of this year (1886) he had collected 376 bird skins, 258 during the month of October in Colorado and the remainder in Kentucky, and that 348 of these were birds of the year, as shown by their partly ossified skulls. This letter is signed "Bardstown, Ky., Nov. 23, 1886."

On October 4, 1886, Beckham returned to Pueblo, Colorado, where he remained a full month and spent all but four of the thirty-one days in the field. He mentions that he had no difficulty shooting Hairy Woodpeckers (*Dryobates villosus harrisi*) with a .22 calibre cane gun, the first mention he makes as to the type of gun used in collecting.
He also refers to a “dust storm” and comments that “The birds did not like these cold dust storms any better than the unfeathered bipeds, for during their prevalence, it seemed impossible to find one anywhere.” His original list was increased from 91 to 112, and additional notes on 29 specimens were included.

After a short stay in Bardstown, Beckham next traveled to southern Texas, where he spent the latter half of December, 1886, and the first three months of 1887 collecting birds. He worked around San Antonio, Leon Springs, Beeville, and Corpus Christi. This covered a stretch of country seventy miles long, extending from the northwest to the southeast. Most of the skins prepared on this trip were sent to the National Museum. In the annual report for 1888, p. 146, it is stated that the museum received 218 specimens, comprising 48 species, from southwestern Texas and adds this comment: “This is an extremely interesting collection, which both on account of its excellent preparation and extensive series of many of the rarer birds hitherto represented in the museum by a few specimens only, may be regarded as one of the most valuable accessions received of late (gift).”

On his way home, Mr. Beckham stopped at his uncle’s estate at Bayou Sara in Louisiana, where he collected from April 1 to April 28, 1887. He mentions that the vegetation was very well advanced on the date of his arrival. “A great deal of time was spent collecting in the densely wooded ravines, ... localities almost entirely neglected during my former visit. It was here that Swainson’s Warbler most abounded.” On April 17 he found a nest of a Hooded Warbler, which seven days later contained four eggs. Grackles destroyed five acres of corn the previous winter for a Mr. Bowman, who poisoned several thousand of them with arsenic, “but unfortunately a good many Carolina Doves were killed along with the Grackles.” In regard to the European House Sparrow, he regrets that “These pests have recently gained a foothold in Bayou Sara, but are not very numerous.” Altogether he added 27 species to his previous list.

After this year spent almost entirely in the open air in four states Beckham apparently felt better, for, according to Ridgeway: “For a few month he resumed his labors in Washington,” presumably in the office of Mr. Pollock, a patent solicitor. He evidently spent some time in the National Museum identifying his Texas collection, for in his article (1888c) he refers several times to specimens examined. In regard to his collection of the Florida Blue Jay he writes (p. 668); “Upon comparing my bird with typical examples of Doctor Coues’ new Florida race in the U. S. National Museum, I find it to agree perfectly with them.” Again, in his discussion of the Western Lark Sparrow, he writes (p. 674): “Upon comparing these with the series in the U. S. National Museum, I find that but two of the birds are typical grammacus, both of which were taken at San Antonio, while the remaining five are easily referable to the paler western form.”

“Again attacked by illness, he went to Louisiana and spent the winter with his uncle, Governor R. C. Wickliffe, near St. Francisville. Growing worse, he returned with his mother to Bardstown, where he died, after extreme suffering. All that friends and relatives and medical skill could do were of no avail. He died without an enemy and was followed to the grave by the tears and tender regrets of all who ever knew him,” wrote Dr. Ridgway (1888).

On June 8, 1888, Charles Wickliffe Beckham, not quite thirty-two years old, was lost to American ornithology. His Texas paper, by far
his most outstanding contribution, was published posthumously. His friend Dr. Ridgway published a short biography of his assistant in the Auk (1888) and a briefer one in the Smithsonian Report for 1888. References to his bird skins in the National Museum have continued to appear in print down to the present day. A brief biography of Beckham with special reference to his Kentucky work appeared in the History and Bibliography of Kentucky Ornithology in 1949 (Lovell and Slack).

Beckham's writings reveal that he had a broad background in science from which to draw. Many of his papers referred to the geological formations of the regions in which he collected. Although he worked before the modern concepts of ecology had been formulated, he showed in most of his papers a real interest in the habitats frequented by the birds. In his Texas paper (1888c) he included a long list of the trees, shrubs, and vines, and throughout his paper he referred to many local plants in which he had collected an interesting bird. He correlated the distribution of land birds with the presence of streams and ponds, and he even discussed the possible effects of the heavy dews as partially alleviating the severe drought in the region.

Beckham's two years as a full-time assistant in the U. S. National Museum, working with some of the leading ornithologists of the period, clearly broadened his knowledge of taxonomy. This is clearly shown in his final paper from Texas (1888c), in which he identified all his birds to subspecies and often discussed the intergradation between subspecies and even distinct species. For example, he wrote concerning the Juncoes (p. 677): "I also obtained several of these 'very puzzling examples,' plainly indicating intergradation between hyemalis and oreganus, oreganus and shufeldti, or hyemalis and shufeldti... This mixing of the geographical races which my material illustrates is by far the most interesting fact in connection with my observations in Texas that has come to my knowledge, although this occurrence of intermediate forms is just what was to have been expected." Beckham indicated in several places that he had made his identifications to subspecies by comparing his skins with the series in the National Museum.

Beckham's interest in birds covered nearly every phase of ornithology. He described a new plumage in the Summer Tanager (1886b) and changes in the plumage of the Yellow-throat (1886a). He was interested in bird anatomy and used it to show that there are a high proportion of young birds in autumn populations (1887a), and he also recorded a tumor on the bill of a Savannah Sparrow (1882b). He collected a good many clutches of eggs but seemed to have escaped the mania for egg-collecting which afflicted so many ornithologists of the period. His knowledge of the distribution of birds was extensive, for on several trips to areas not usually visited by him, he recorded the collection of species beyond their usual range, as, for example, a White-winged Junco in Maryland (1885c).

In many of his publications Beckham revealed a keen interest in bird behavior. He recorded wing-flashing in the Mockingbird (1882b) and the habit of Swainson's Warbler of pausing to throw back its head and pour forth its curious melody, "a habit so far as I have read, not noted by previous observers (1887c)." He had a good ear for songs and used it occasionally to find unusual species of birds.

He referred to evolution several times in his papers and clearly believed in the concept of the changing species. For example, when
discussing the intergrading of the plumages of two species of Bob-white in Texas, he wrote "Whether this black in the white throat-patch is a case of development or merely the persistence of an ancestral type, cannot with our present lights be determined." After observing a Kingbird, with the red crest erected catch a bee he comments, "The bright crest of flycatchers perhaps has been evolved for the special purpose above mentioned," that is, catching insects. In his disparaging comments on the English Sparrow, however, Beckham seemed to have missed the point when he remarked, "There must be something wrong about a theory—'survival of the fittest'—that lets this bird live—what are they fit for anyway?"

One looks in vain for any expression of opinion on conservation of birds by Beckham. He described raids on a Robin roost in Fredericksburg, nine miles from Bardstown, where as many as 3000 Robins were killed in a single night and sold in the market at ten cents a dozen. He wrote of the growing scarcity of the Passenger Pigeon and stated, "There was an enormous flight of them here about 15 years ago." He also wrote that Wild Turkey is "said to still occur sparingly in the western part of the county," but nowhere does he make any suggestions for the growing need for their protection.

Beckham's publications are filled with humorous comments and cliches, both of which were typical of ornithological writings of the last century. Some of these have already been quoted; here is another: when discussing the case of the Philadelphia Vireo caught in a spider's web, he wrote, "I think it improbable that the wily Arachnid deliberately attempts the capture of such large game, and in the particular instance it was doubtless as much surprised as the cockney sportsman in 'Punch' who fired at a hare and killed a calf" (1888a).

Although Beckham's college experiences were rather brief, he often used very erudite expressions and liberally sprinkled Latin idioms throughout his papers. In discussing the presence of a snake-skin in the nest of the Crested Flycatcher, he queried, "Whether or not they act upon the idea that 'the hair of a dog is good for his bite,' which is merely a homely rendition of the homeopathic canon of 'similia similibus curantur,' and put the skins in to keep snakes out, I leave for the determination of some of our ornithological quidnuncs."

Had Beckham lived a normal life span, it seems very probable that his name would stand in the forefront in the ranks of American ornithologists.

Annotated Bibliography of the Writings of
CHARLES WICKLiffe BECKHAM


1881a. Two Tame Coots. Forest and Stream, 16: 473 (July 14).


1885d. Remarks on the Plumage of Regulus calendula. Proc. U. S. National Museum, 8: 623-628. Proves that the females do not have the crown patch and that some young males in autumn do.

1885e. The Western Semi-palmated Sandpiper on the Coast of Virginia. Auk, 2: 110. Collected a Western Sandpiper on Sept. 6, 1884.


1887a. Scarcity of Adult Birds in Autumn. Auk, 4: 79. A letter to the editor in which he reported that most of the birds collected by him were immature, as determined by unossified skulls.

1887b. Additional Notes on the Birds of Pueblo County, Colorado. Auk, 4: 120-125. Spent Oct. 4 to Nov. 4 collecting and increased his previous list to 112 and included notes on 29 species previously reported.

1887c. Additions to the Avifauna of Bayou Sara, La. Auk, 4: 289-316. Collected from April 1 to April 28 and increased his previous list to 113.

1888a. A Philadelphia Vireo and a Cobweb. Auk, 5: 115. A live bird was discovered caught by one wing.

1888b. Occurrence of the Florida Blue Jay (Cyanocitta cristata florincola) in Southwestern Texas. Auk, 5: 112. After comparing his bird with the type specimen in the National Museum, he concluded that it belonged to the Florida race.

FOCK NAMES OF KENTUCKY BIRDS

By W. L. McAtee, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

The terms here presented are extracted from the folk-name section of a large manuscript on "American Bird Names: Their Histories and Meanings," which now seems unlikely to be published as a whole. Many of the names are labelled "general," "universal," or the like, and these adjectives are to be interpreted in relation to the ranges of the birds concerned. Names not so labelled have been definitely attributed to Kentucky. Anyone wishing to pursue the records further may do so at the Fuertes Museum and Library at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, where the card catalogues and other material, accumulated over a period of forty years, are deposited.

Incorporated in the present paper are apparent folk names, which, with numerous bookish ones, are in a manuscript on "Local Bird Nomenclature," submitted to the Division of Ornithology and Mammalogy (later the Biological Survey) of the United States Department of Agriculture in 1890 by Dr. L. Otley Pindar, then of Hickman, Fulton County, Kentucky. These are starred in the following article.

SYSTEMATIC LIST

COMMON LOON. Hell-diver (rather general. This name refers to the bird's almost supernatural diving ability); loon (rather general. The conventional explanation is that this word is derived from the Scandinavian lom, "lame", the bird being very awkward on foot. An additional suggestion is that the appellation may be sonic, a common call sounding like "ah-loo"); Walloon, warloon (probably from its cries).

PIED-BILLEDGREBE. Dabchick (general, the bird that dabs, daps, or dives); devil-diver (a tribute to its great diving ability); didapper (general, a shortening for dive-dapper, dipper, or diver); dipper (general); hell-diver (same note as on devil-diver); water-witch (general. This refers to the bird's uncanny ability to submerge beneath water without leaving a trace).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT. Nigger goose (universal, in allusion to its black color and goose-like appearance, especially when in flight in the V-formation so closely associated with the common CANADA GOOSE); shag (general, in reference to its shaggy crest); water-turkey (a water bird of somewhat turkey-like form).

GREAT BLUE HERON. Blue crane, crane (general; herons are often miscalled cranes).

AMERICAN EGRET. Piglin*; white crane* (general).

GREEN HERON. Fly-up-the-creek (general); Indian hen (a sizable bird facetiously referred to as poultry of the Indians); po' Joe (Names of this pattern are widespread for herons in the Southeast; they seem to be traceable to pojo, meaning heron in the Gullah dialect, a name imported with slaves from western Africa).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON. Qua-bird, quawk, quok, squawk (general, in reference to a common cry of the species).

AMERICAN BITTERN. Bull-of-the-woods (its peculiar notes being likened to the bawling of a bull, a rather strained comparison);
Indian hen (See under GREEN HERON); stake-driver (general, because the bird's notes suggest resonant pounding); thunder-pump (general, the notes simulating sounds made by an old-fashioned suction pump, but hardly so loud as thunder).

WOOD IBIS. Gourdhead (general, from the shape of the bare head and beak, the latter being the neck of the gourd); white stork (This is our only representative of the stork family).

WHISTLING SWAN. White crane (by very erroneous transfer); wild swan (general).

CANADA GOOSE. Honker (universal, from its cries dropping through the air by day or night from birds often not themselves visible); wild goose (universal).

MALLARD. Gray duck, gray mallard (rather general); greenhead* (universal; the head and neck of the adult male are iridescent green); mallard (universal).

BLACK DUCK. This name is in general use, though the prevailing color of the bird is dusky or blackish-brown; blackjack* (familiar name for a dark-colored creature); black mallard* (general; it is a close relative of the COMMON or GRAY MALLARD).

PINTAIL. Gray duck (in rather general use; sometimes refers only to the female); pintail, sprig, sprigtail* (general, alluding to the long, pointed tail of the male).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL. Blue-wing (general; the wing-coverts and, in male, the adjacent feathers, are blue); teal (general).

BALDPATE. This name, in general use, refers to the white-topped head of the male; widgeon (general).

WOOD DUCK. Acorn duck (familiar name for its feeding on acorns; summer duck*; tree duck (from its nesting in cavities of trees); whistler (from its squealing notes); wood duck (general).

RING-NECKED DUCK. Blackjack (familiar, name for any large dark-colored creature); blackneck; ringbill, ringbill blackhead; ringbill duck (from the pale crossband near the front end of the bill).

GREATER SCAUP. Big blackhead (the head and neck of the adult male are black, with greenish reflections); big bluebill, bluebill* (rather general; the bill is dull blue in both sexes).

LESSER SCAUP. Bluebill, little bluebill (general; see preceding note).

COMMON GOLDEN-EYE. Goldeneye (general; the iris is yellow); whistler (general, from the sound made by the wings in flight); whistle-wing (rather general; same note).

BUFFLEHEAD. Butterball* (general, from its sometimes being excessively fat); dipper (general, for its being a good diver); widgeon (This is a rather general-purpose name for the smaller ducks).

OLD SQUAW. This name, in rather general use, refers to the garrulity of the species; pied duck (that is, with strongly contrasting colors).

SCOTERS. Any of these birds would be of almost accidental occurrence in Kentucky; however, the name nigger duck, from their largely black coloration, has been reported.

RUDDY DUCK. Butterball (general, from its being at times very
fat); stiff-tail (rather general; the tail feathers are unusually stiff); stiffy.

HOODED Merganser. Fish-duck (general); little merganser; sawbill (general; the bill is provided with prominent serrations); sheldrake (rather general; this name means pied drake, that is, one with strongly contrasting colors).

COMMON Merganser. Fish duck (general); goosander (general, an old name meaning goose-duck, probably, that is, a large one); sawbill (general); sheldrake (general). For notes on this and the following species, see under HOODED Merganser.

RED-BREASTED Merganser. Fish duck* (general); jack, sawbill, sheldrake* (general).

TurKEY VULTURE. Buzzard (general, from resemblance on the wing, to the soaring hawks known as buzzards in England); carrion-crow (crow from its black color, carrion from its food).

BLACK VULTURE. Black buzzard, black-headed buzzard, buzzard, carrion-crow (all general).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK. Bluetail (The adult male is dark bluish-gray above); chicken hawk (This hawk is too small to kill any but small chickens, which are better protected by enclosures than by killing the hawks); pigeon hawk (rather general, perhaps from its size; perhaps as a carryover from Passenger Pigeon days when several species of hawks attended the great flocks of pigeons as predators or camp-followers); quail hawk (Quail remains were found in only 4 of 944 stomachs examined by the U. S. Biological Survey).

COOPER'S HAWK. Bluetail (See under preceding species); chicken hawk (general; remains of poultry were found in 32 of 261 stomachs studied by the Biological Survey); hen hawk.

RED-TAILED HAWK. Chicken hawk, hen hawk (general; remains of domestic fowls were found in 60 of 754 stomachs, or in about 1 in each 12); redtail (rather general; the tail of adults is chestnut above and shows that color predominantly when light shines through); squirrel hawk (tree squirrels were found in 50 of 754 stomachs).

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK. Chicken hawk, hen hawk (general; less applicable to this species than to the preceding; traces of poultry were found in only 8 of 391 stomachs); squirrel hawk (squirrel tally: 9 to 391).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK. The names chicken hawk* and hen hawk* are likely to be given to any large hawk, but as applied to this species, they are mistakes. No remains of poultry, whatever, were found in 145 stomachs examined.

BALD EAGLE. This name is rather general; it alludes to the white head of adults, which, however, is not bald. Brown eagle (the young); gray eagle (rather general; also for birds in immature plumage); white-headed eagle (rather general).

MARSH HAWK. Harrier, marsh harrier* (one that harries or ravages); marsh hawk (general; characteristic is its patrolling of marshes and meadows); meadow hawk; mouse hawk; mouse hawk (general, a well-deserved name; mice were identified in 211 of 601 stomachs); rabbit hawk (Rabbits are large prey for this species, occurring once in about 10 meals); swamp hawk* ("swampy" meaning "marsh").

OSPREY. Fish eagle (rather general); fish hawk (general; the bird preys largely upon fishes); osprey (general; a British name;
continental analogues, traceable to the Latin name, oisifragus, for this cosmopolitan bird).

PEREGRINE FALCON. Duck hawk (rather general; remains of ducks were found in 9 of 57 stomachs examined by the Biological Survey).

SPARROW HAWK. This name is general; sparrows are eaten, though not extensively; a better name, based on food habits, would be grasshopper hawk; mouse hawk*.

RUFTED GROUSE. Kentucky pheasant, native pheasant (to distinguish it from the introduced ring-necked pheasant); partridge (by transfer from the European gray partridge, which, however, it little resembles. Partridge is a more northern and eastern term; pheasant, a mountain and southern name for the ruffed grouse); pheasant (as being of the size class of the European pheasant, whose name it rather generally bore before the introduction of that bird).

PRAIRIE CHICKEN. Barren hen (This bird, like the brush-inhabiting heath hen of the Atlantic States, may have been of a distinct, but as yet not recognized, race); prairie chicken, often shortened to chicken (bearing in mind the preceding remark, this general term may have been applied to the Kentucky birds); prairie hen (same note).

BOB-WHITE. This rather general name is in imitation of the bird's common call. Partridge* (The American game bird nearest in size to the European gray partridge; this name is prevalent throughout the Southeastern States); quail* (formerly a northeastern, now a general term).

COMMON PHEASANT. English pheasant (Part of the stock was imported from England); pheasant, ring-neck, ring-neck pheasant (general; in most of the mixed American stock, the male has a white collar).

WILD TURKEY. Gobbler (The adult male; general; from its call); turkey, turkey gobbler, wild turkey (general. A variety of explanations for this name have been offered, among which the most satisfactory is that the bird named itself, a common call sounding like "turk, turk, lurk").

WHOOPING CRANE. Gourdhead* (The head is partially bare); white crane* (general, in its time; the bird is now nearly extinct).

SANDHILL CRANE. This name and brown crane, in rather general use, may have been heard in Kentucky in more favored days; the bird now seldom visits the state.

AMERICAN COOT. Chicken-footed duck (The bird has the habits but not the structure of a duck, contrasting notably in the separated, though lobate, toes); coot (general); mud hen (universal; the somewhat hen-like bird of muddy situations); sea hen, water chicken, water guinea, water guinea-hen*, water hen (All of these names suggest a rather poultry-like bird that frequents water).

KILDEER. This name, from a common call, is universal.

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER. Bullhead (that is, bighead).

AMERICAN WOODCOCK. Woodcock (general; a striking bird of woodlands); wood snipe.

WILSON'S SNIPe. English snipe (general east of the Mississippi River; in such names the term "English" implies a superior kind); jacksnipe (universal, meaning small snipe; by transfer from Great Britain, where the name distinguishes an ally of our bird from the common snipe of Europe); snipe (universal).
UPLAND PLOVER. Field plover (rather general; as the standard name also implies, this bird frequents uplands more than is customary with shore birds); upland plover (rather general).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER. Peet-weet (general, in imitation of the bird's common call); sand snipe; teeter (general); teeter snipe; teetertail (general); tip-up (universal. The last four names allude to the bird's constant bobbing movements).

GREATER YELLOW-LEGS. Big yellowleg (general); tell-tale (rather general, because its wariness and shrill cries give all wildlife a notice of the presence of intruders); yellow-leg (general).

LESSEER YELLOW-LEGS. Little yellowleg, yellowleg (general).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER. Grass snipe (general; the bird frequents sappy grassland); jacksnipe (general) meaning "small-sized"; this name is more frequently applied to WILSON'S SNipe (see above).

HERRING GULL. Sea gull* (general; any gull would probably be so called in Kentucky).

COMMON PIGEON. Blue rock, dove, pigeon, and street pigeon are names rather generally used. This first one is short for blue rock pigeon, a British name for the bird, alluding to its color and to its nesting in rocky places.

MOURNING DOVE. Dove (general); turtle dove (general; "turtle" traces to the apparently sonic Latin term turtur, a name for the common European dove); wood dove.

PASSENGER PIGEON. Pigeon and wild pigeon were general for this now-extinct bird.

NORTHERN PARAKEET. Also extirpated; common names were parrot and wild parrot.

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO. Chow-chow* (sonic); phantom bird* (It slips elusively through the greenery); rain crow* (universal; the bird is thought to be most clamorous before a rain, it is, however, not at all crow-like); spirit bird* (see note on phantom bird); weatherbird, weather-vane (See note on rain crow).

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO. This bird is scarcely distinguished by lay observers, and doubtless shares any and all names applied to the preceding species.

BARN OWL. Asiatic Owl (Such names are meant to signalize distinctive species and have no implication as to country of origin; this bird, in fact, is almost cosmopolitan); barn owl (rather general, from nesting in barn lofts); monkey-faced owl (general; the heart-shaped facial disk being likened to that of a money); seal-skin bird (from the sleek texture of its plumage).

SCREECH OWL. Little gray owl*; rat owl*; red owl* (The bird has two color phases of plumage, red and gray); screech owl (general; the bird may rarely screech, but the note most often heard is a soft, tremulous whistle, which to my ears is a musical and welcome sound); scrinch owl, scrooch owl, squinch owl (These three names appear to be corruptions of screech owl, but the last may refer to the birds' keeping the eyes "squinted," or closed, in daylight).

GREAT HORNED OWL. Cat owl (general; two theories account for this name; the tufts of feathers on each side of the crown, resembling ears, suggest a cat-head-like silhouette; its silent approach to
prey is likened to that of a stealthy cat); hog-owl (perhaps a corruption of "horn" owl); hoo owl, hoot owl* (general; the last two names allude to its common, hooting calls).

SNOWY OWL. White owl (general).

BARRIED OWL. Hoo owl; hoot owl (general; see note on these names under GREAT HORNED OWL); laughing owl (in reference to the "who are you?" heard as "ha-aw-ah," part of its cry); muley owl (that is, without crown tufts or "horns," and thus like a muley cow); night owl.

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW. Dutch whip-poor-will (as a whip-poor-will with a different, or Dutch, accent).

WHIP-POOR-WILL. Bull-bat (through confusion with the NIGHTHAWK; see below; whip-poor-will (in imitation of its cry, which is usually frequently repeated).

COMMON NIGHTHAWK. Bull-bat* (from the sound made while dropping through the air with wings in a V-formation, which is likened to the bawling of a bull; "bat" as a nocturnal bird); eve-jar (in England a related bird, but more like the WHIP-POOR-WILL, is called eve-jar or night-jar from a "churring" sound it makes); goat-sucker (This term and analogues in several European languages for a bird of this family reflect a superstition inspired by their large mouths. The observation on which it seems to rest is of some of the birds feeding about livestock and jumping up to catch insects from the bodies of the animals); haunt bird (Any nocturnal bird is likely to have superstitions connected with it); nighthawk, from its nocturnal and expert flight).

CHIMNEY SWIFT. Chimney swallow* (general; its form and expert flight cause it to be confused with swallows, with which, however, it is not closely related; it nests and roosts in chimneys); chimney sweep (general; from Its frequenting chimneys, using a once-familiar name for human cleaners of chimneys); chimney sweepers*.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD. Berrmsgbird (general; in allusion to the sound made by the buzzing wings).

BELTED KINGFISHER. Kingfisher (general; as an accomplished fisher).

YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER. Dutchman's quail (by reason of the quondam fondness of German hunters of Frankfort, Kentucky, for adding it to their game bags. S. M. Stagg, 1936); flicker (general; in imitation of its notes); high-holer (It may be assumed that this name alludes to the choice by the bird of a high situation for its nest; however, nests are often low. To philologists these names seem adapted from some of those for the Green Woodpecker, the European species that is more like our flicker. British folk names high-hoe and high-hole refer to the Auding notes of that species); yellow-hammer (universal. A British name for the yellow bunting that has been transferred to a variety of birds having yellow in their plumage).

PILEATED WOODPECKER. Betty bird (a familiar pet name); cock-of-the-woods (general; as a conspicuous woodland bird); good god (general; without going into lengthy explanation, it may be said that this term is a corruption of the well-distributed name logcock. See my article in AMERICAN SPEECH, XXVI (May, 1951), 90-95); Indian hen (A wild "hen" or large bird, with some reference, perhaps, to its cackling calls: logcock* (general; as a striking bird frequenting trees); lord god (general; a corruption of the preceding name); wood-
chuck* (general); wood hen (These two names mean large or conspicuous bird of the woodland).

**RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER.** Checkerback (The back is black and white crossbanded, but not checkered); sapsucker (a general name for woodpeckers; only one species occurring in Kentucky is a true sapsucker).

**RED-HEADED WOODPECKER.** Redhead (general; the head, neck, and upper breast of adults of both sexes are bright crimson); red-white-and-blue bird (Its colors include large patches of red, white, and blue-black); white-back (The rump and upper tail-coverts are white; white-coat (Enough of the plumage is white to suggest a coat of that color).

**YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER.** Sapsucker* (general; this is the only Eastern woodpecker that excavates pits in bark and revisits them to drink sap; it is responsible for the conspicuous rings of punctures seen on a variety of trees).

**HAIRY WOODPECKER.** Big sapsucker*; devil's almanac (perhaps from its black and white markings suggesting a printed page); great gray-backed sapsucker*; sapsucker* (general; see note under RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER); wood-knocker* (that is, one that knocks on wood, a woodpecker).

**DOWNY WOODPECKER.** Dominecker (from its speckled coloration suggesting that of the Dominique chicken); little sapsucker*, sapsucker* (general; see above).

**IVORY-BILLED WOODPECKER.** Ivory-billed woodcock (a conspicuous woodland bird with pale-yellowish bill); peacock woodpecker (in allusion to its crest and striking coloration).

**EASTERN KINGBIRD.** Bee bird, bee martin* (general; from its feeding on honey bees); kingbird (rather general; in allusion to its dominating habit of driving other, and often larger, birds away from its nesting territory).

**EASTERN PHOEBE.** Barn pewee (It sometimes nests on beams in barns; “pewee” is sonic); bridge bird* (It often nests on beams or abutments of bridges); moss bird*, moss pewee (from using that material in constructing its nest); pewee* (general); pewit flycatcher*; phoebe, phoebe bird (rather general; the last four names are imitative of its common call); preacher bird* (first term probably sonic; Cf. “phoebe”); spider bird (perhaps from feeding on spiders, which it does to a moderate extent).

**EASTERN WOOD PEEWEE.** Moss pewee (mosses used in the construction of its nest; “pewee” sonic).

**BANK SWALLOW.** Bank martin*; bank swallow* (general; it nests in burrows in banks); bee martin* (It feeds little, if at all, on bees); sand martin* (general); sand swallow* (rather general; note on bank martin applies).

**BARN SWALLOW.** Barn flycatcher (It habitually nests in barns and feeds upon insects); barn swallow (apparently general); fork-tailed swallow*.

**PURPLE MARTIN.** Big martin*; black martin* (The feathers are tipped with steel-blue, overlying black and sooty-gray); house martin* (from its nesting in houses erected for it by man); large martin (It is the largest of the swallows occurring in Kentucky); martin* (rather general).
BLUE JAY. Jay, jay bird*. All three names are rather general; the upper parts are largely blue; “jay” is sonic.

COMMON CROW. Crow (universal).

CAROLINA CHICKADEE. Chickadee (general; sonic); crickadock*, crickadood* (apparently basically sonic; tomtit* (See note under TUFTED TITMOUSE below).

TUFTED TITMOUSE. Peter bird ("peter" in imitation of a common call); peter-peter; Stephen bluehead (A Negro familiar or “pet" name; the color of is slate-gray, not blue); tiptop* (It has a topknot and frequents tops of trees); tomtit* (general; a familiar name plus an abbreviation for titmouse. This name is applied to various small birds both in this country and in Great Britain); winter king* (perhaps from its being more noticeable in winter and having a crest, or “crown”).

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH. Creeper* (It spends much time clambering over trees); sapsucker* (general, because deemed a kind of woodpecker, but even for them, the term "sapsucker," except for one species, is a misnomer); tree creeper*.

BROWN CREEPER. Winter creeper* (because it occurs in winter and seeks its living creeping over the trunks of trees).

WINTER WREN. Wood wren*.

BEWICK’S WREN. Barn wren (from nesting about barns; house wren (It occupies houses provided by man).

MOCKINGBIRD. Universal; it refers to its power of mimicry.

CATBIRD. Again a universal name; it refers to its cat-like scolding note.

BROWN THRASHER. Brown mockingbird (The plumage is reddish-brown to cinnamon-rufous; the species is an occasional, though expert, imitator of the notes of other birds); brown thrush* (general; from its thrush-like pattern of coloration); fox-colored mockingbird*; fox-colored thrush*; French mockingbird* (to distinguish it from the true MOCKINGBIRD); thrasher (spelled also “thresher” and “thrush-er”; the last two terms are used in England for the song thrush; so the name of our bird appears to be a transfer from that species. Suggestions are made that the term “thrasher” alludes to the birds “rooting” among fallen leaves, or to its beating insects preparatory to swallowing them, but the deviation from “thrasher—thrush” seems preferable).

AMERICAN ROBIN. Robin* (universal, by transfer from a similarly confiding European bird of the same family, which is also dusky above and ruddy below).

WOOD THRUSH. Chood-a-lang (sonic); corn-planting bird (from its song, being noticeable at corn-planting time); pee-o-weep (sonic); song thrush*; Virginia nightingale (Likening it to Europe’s most noted bird songster is a tribute to its song, which is often given from dusk to dark); wheedledge (sonic); wood thrush.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD. Bluebird* general; the male is largely blue above).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER. Moss bird* (The nest looks as if it were made of moss).
CEDAR WAXWING. Cedarbird* (general; from frequenting cedars (Juniperus) and feeding on their modified cones or "berries"); cherry bird* (It consumes cherries, sometimes to a destructive extent); paroquet* (After the disappearance of the true paroquet, this name may have been inherited by this similarly flocking species with touches of bright color); rice bird* (This name may allude to wax-like tips of the secondary wing feathers); service bird (as feeding on service, or June-berries (Amelanchier); waxwing*.

SOUTHERN SHRIKE. Butcherbird (general; it hangs its prey on thorns, other sharp objects, or in crotches, for storage or preparatory to rending it).

BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER. Tree creeper* (It spends much of its time clambering over the bark of trees).

YELLOW WARBLER. Mustard bird (The plumage is largely yellow); summer yellowbird* (general); wild canary (general; from its largely yellow coloration); yellow bird*.

OVEN-BIRD. Ground wren; oven-bird (rather general; in shape, the arched-over nest suggests an outdoor oven; it is not, however, made of clay).

LOUISIANA WATER-THRUSH. Branch babbler (As "babbler" is a rare word in American use, it may represent in this name a mishearing of "bobber," which would be fitting for this constantly-tail-pumping bird; "branch" alludes to its small-stream habitat); branch bird; teeterer (from its bobbing movements).

MARYLAND YELLOW-THROAT. Black-faced yellow bird*; bush bird*.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT. French mockingbird (as a distinctive kind of variety-singer; it does not, however, rival the true MOCKINGBIRD in the art of mimicry); Kentucky mockingbird; mockingbird; plow bird (from its song attracting attention at plowing time; also perhaps because its disjointed utterances may sound like commands to horses); strawberry bird.

ENGLISH SPARROW. That name and sparrow, alone, are universal; much of the original stock of this introduced species was imported from England; it belongs to the weaver-bird, rather than to the sparrow, alliance.

BOBOLINK. Army-worm bird* (as feeding on that pest); bobolink (general; sonic); rice bird (a name transferred from the South Atlantic States, where in the rice-growing era this bird was a serious pest); skunk blackbird* (from the black and white coloration of the male).

EASTERN MEADOWLARK. Field lark* (Despite its several "lark" names, this bird is no lark); marsh quail* (In older days the bird was hunted much as the QUAIL or BOB-WHITE now is); meadow lark (general); meadow starling* (various birds of this family are miscalled starlings); old-field lark*.

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD. Orange-winged blackbird* (There is a large red and buff patch on the bend of the wing of the male); redwing, red-winged blackbird (general); swamp blackbird* (general; "swamp" means marsh).

BALTIMORE ORIOLE. Baltimore bird* (Its colors are those of the coat of arms of Lord Baltimore, proprietor of the Province of Maryland); firebird*, flamer (about half of the plumage of the adult
male varies from "cadmium yellow to intense orange or almost flame scarlet" (Ridgway, BIRDS OF NORTH AND MIDDLE AMERICA, 1902); golden oriole*; golden robin* (rather general; as a familiar bird distinguished, by the color just described, from the common ROBIN); hangnest* (rather general; the nest is suspended); oriole*.

PURPLE GRACKLE. Blackbird*; crow blackbird* (universal; "crow" from its large size); green-headed blackbird* (Much of the iridescence of the plumage is greenish).

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD. Cowbird, cow blackbird* (general; from its associating with cattle); cow bunting*; cowpen bird*; lazy bird* (from foisting its young upon other birds to rear).

SCARLET TANAGER. Black-winged redbird* (rather general); British bird (Its general scarlet color suggesting the old-time uniform of the British soldier); dogwood-winter bird (An unseasonable cold spell at the time the dogwood is in bloom is called dogwood winter; the spring migration of this species may be pronounced, in some years, at that time); firebird* (See note on redbird); pocket bird* (The black wings, contrasting with the scarlet body of the male, suggest pockets); redbird* (rather general; the plumage of the male is chiefly scarlet).

SUMMER TANAGER. Bee bird*; bee-catcher (from its feeding on honeybees); redbird (rather general. The plumage of the male is dull red to vermillion); summer redbird* (rather general; to distinguish it from the CARDINAL or winter redbird).

CARDINAL. This name is now probably general, having been learned from books and other print; in allusion to its vermilion-red coloration, including crest or "beret"; a distinctive part of the vestiture of a Cardinal, or member of the Pope's council, is red); cedar redbird (from nesting in red cedars (Juniperus virginiana): Kentucky cardinal (James Lane Allen's novel of that name popularized this appellation); redbird* (universal; because of the plumage).

INDIGO BUNTING. Indigo bird (general; the plumage of the male is mostly iridescent bluish); summer bluebird*.

PURPLE FINCH. Linnet*.

PINE SISKIN. Linnet*.

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH. Goldfinch (probably rather general; the general color of the breeding male is canary-yellow); lettuce bird* (rather general; from its feeding on the seeds of lettuce); seedeater*; thistle bird* (universal; this bird feeds on thistle seeds and lines its nest with thistle down); tweet* (sonic); wild canary (universal; in allusion to the largely yellow coloration of the breeding male and its copious song); yellowbird* (universal); yellow finch.

EASTERN TOWHEE. Bull-finch* (that is, a large finch); chewink (general; sonic); ground robin* (general; its black and cinnamon coloration suggests that of the common ROBIN); jewee, joree* (sonic); marsh robin* (Swamp would be better; as a wet, wooded tract, not a grassland, would be more like the bird's preferred habitat); towhee (general; sonic).

VESPER SPARROW. Ground sparrow.

SLATE-COLORED JUNCO. Black snowbird* (general; the prevailing color is slaty, and the bird occurs at the snowy season); rain bird* (from being especially active preceding rainstorms); snowbird (general).
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TREE SPARROW. Winter chip-bird* (from its resemblance to the summer chip-bird, or CHIPPING SPARROW).

CHIPPING SPARROW. Chippy* (general; its call is a "chip," and its song a succession of similar notes); chipsney*; hair bird* (general; it lines its nest with animal hair); house sparrow (from its living about the houses of man); twit sparrow*; yard sparrow.

FIELD SPARROW. Bush bird*; bush sparrow*.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW. Stripe-headed sparrow.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW. Ground sparrow.

FOX SPARROW. Big sparrow*.

SONG SPARROW. Ground sparrow*; song sparrow (general; the bird is a melodious songster); sparrow*.

(Editor's note: This contribution by Mr. McAtee, so long active in the Bureau of Fish and Wildlife and now in retirement at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, has permanent interest to all ornithologists and has an especial interest to Kentuckians because of its scholarly form and because of its utilizing the collections made so long ago by Dr. L. Otley Pindar, who was to become one of the Founders of the Kentucky Ornithological Society).

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A CHAT WITH OUR MEMBERS CONCERNING THE FUTURE OF OUR SOCIETY

Leonard C. Brecher, Chairman, Endowment Fund Committee

Yes, it is taken for granted that you are interested in the K. O. S., but what about your interest in the financial stability of our Society? Your Endowment Committee would like to point up ways and means to make this interest more concrete and effective.

One of the best safeguards against unforeseen adverse circumstances is to maintain an adequate endowment fund. Such a fund is being accumulated at interest and may be augmented either by life membership payments, outright gifts from interested members, or bequests upon death.

Perhaps the easiest way for most of us to help is to subscribe for a life membership at fifty dollars, which may be paid at one time or in four annual installments of $12.50 each. Payment of this sum should not be a hardship on anyone who is deeply interested in continuing the ornithological progress of our state. It should be especially attractive to all persons who are able to pay now and who would thus free themselves from membership dues in later life after retirement. From this aspect alone, the life membership arrangement is a bargain.

Another method which may be more applicable to our mature members is to provide a suitable sum in your will. Many of you have devoted years to bird study; so what better way is there to perpetuate your interest than to see your attorney and provide for a bequest? Do it now before it is too late.

Or, perhaps, some may be interested in providing a grant for study of some problem or establishing lands and funds for a sanctuary. And it may well be that some of you know persons of means whom you
can interest in such gifts. Our Society is incorporated as a non-profit scientific and educational organization, and gifts to our endowment fund are tax exempt.

We are counting on you to help establish the K. O. S. in financial security so that your Society may grow in its value to you personally and to the state. The income from our invested funds could be used to enlarge The Kentucky Warbler, as it is through this publication that information on our birds is made available to you and to other research workers throughout our land. It is important that our Warbler be maintained adequately, for to many of us it brings news of our friends quarterly from all portions of our state. Moreover, other projects and services of interest to you could be initiated if the proper funds were available.

Is this to be just another report from the Endowment Committee? Well, it depends on you. Let's transmute our intentions into action!

* * * * * * A N N U A L M E E T I N G A P R I L, 1957 *

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its thirty-fourth annual Spring Meeting at Bowling Green, Kentucky, April 12-14, 1957, with headquarters at Lost River Motel. This was the second field-study program held in this area, designed primarily to observe the migrating waterbirds, waterfowl, and shorebirds frequenting McElroy and Chaney Lakes.

Mr. and Mrs. P. W. Stamm were hosts at an informal gathering Friday evening in their cottage. Interesting slides of people and places concerning the Kentucky Ornithological Society were shown by Miss Evelyn Schneider.

On Saturday the members, led by Dr. Gordon Wilson, Dr. L. Y. Lancaster, and Leonard C. Brecher, spent the day on the shores of Chaney and McElroy Lakes, where 102 species of birds were observed. Lunch, picnic style, was eaten in the field.

The dinner meeting, held at Ferrell's Restaurant Saturday night, was presided over by the president, Mrs. Stamm. After the introduction of the guests and members by localities, a short business session was held. The minutes, as printed in the Kentucky Warbler were approved. The Recording Secretary gave the following summary of the principal actions of the Executive Board at its meeting preceding the dinner:

1. The Board agreed that before taking definite action concerning the reproducing of out-of-print issues of the Kentucky Warbler the secretary would ascertain the number of issues desired by persons requesting back issues and report at the fall meeting.

2. It was the desire of the entire Board to honor Dr. Gordon Wilson, in appreciation of his long service to the Society. For that purpose it was voted that a scholarship in Kentucky Ornithology be established honoring Dr. Wilson, and that a committee be appointed to activate such a scholarship.

3. Cumberland Falls was selected as the place for the Fall Meeting; the date October 11-13, 1957.

4. The president reported that the Society applied for and received from the U. S. Treasury Department exemption from Federal income tax as an organization. Therefore, contributions made to the Society are deductible by the donors in computing their taxable income as outlined by the Federal laws.
5. It was reported that "the vote, taken by mail regarding the deletion of Section B, Article II, of the By-Laws was almost unanimous in favor of the deletion.

At the conclusion of the business meeting Dr. Gordon Wilson read a paper, "Some Ornithological Oddities at the Lakes near Woodburn," in which he gave an intimate glimpse of his bird records covering a period of forty years at Chaney and McElroy Lakes.

Mrs. F. W. Stamm then showed slides of an unusually large blackbird roost in Jefferson County which she and Dr. H. B. Lovell observed during the months of March and April, explaining the behavior patterns of this flock estimated at 500,000 in number.

Two interesting movies were shown: "Marsh and Shorebirds"— courtesy of the Michigan Conservation Department; and "The Wood Duck," courtesy of Mr. R. O. Soaper, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Resources.

On Sunday morning, the members went to the summer home of Dr. and Mrs. L. Y. Lancaster on Gasper River, where field trips were led by Dr. Wilson and Dr. Lancaster. Seven other species of birds were added, making a total of 109 species for the two days.

The cold weather during our meeting was unable to detract from our enjoyment of the "swallow ponds," or diminish the pride we felt in our own speakers, Mrs. Stamm and Dr. Wilson.—VESTINA BAILEY THOMAS, Recording Secretary.

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TREASURER’S REPORT APRIL 13, 1957

Balance on hand October 13, 1956 $ 48.51

Receipts:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Receipts from Fall Meeting</td>
<td>52.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership dues to date</td>
<td>477.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Check lists, Bibliographies, Indexes</td>
<td>7.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous receipts</td>
<td>18.75</td>
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<td>Profit on books, calendars</td>
<td>6.10</td>
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<td>Dividend on Jefferson-Federal</td>
<td>11.38</td>
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<td>Refund from Selby Smith</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two Life Memberships</td>
<td>100.00</td>
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Total $ 742.64

Disbursements:

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<tr>
<td>Expenses of Fall Meeting</td>
<td>$ 30.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Postcards, stamps, envelopes</td>
<td>34.80</td>
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<td>Deposited in savings account (Life Memb.)</td>
<td>100.00</td>
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<td>Cost of printing Warblers</td>
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<td>Address labels</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mimeographing expenses</td>
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<td>Dues to Ky. Conservation Council</td>
<td>2.00</td>
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Total $ 304.16

Balance $ 438.48

In our Endowment Fund we have seven $100.00 shares of Jefferson-Federal Building and Loan Association. Also $339.90 in Savings Account at Jefferson-Federal, of which $3.27, being interest, should go into our checking account, making our true balance $441.75.

—FAN B. TABLER, Treasurer.
ATTENDANCE AT SPRING MEETING

Members and guests in attendance at our spring meeting, Bowling Green, April 12-14, 1957:

BOWLING GREEN: Marjorie Clagett, Mrs. R. Kenney, Dr. and Mrs. L. Y. Lancaster, Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Long, Dr. and Mrs. Robert W. Pace, Mr. and Mrs. O. C. Riley, Dan Russell, Loyce Spencer, Mrs. Will Thomas, Dr. and Mrs. Gordon Wilson.

DANVILLE: Mrs. J. Cheek.

FRANKFORT: Mrs. W. P. Ringo, Elizabeth Satterle.

GLASGOW: Mrs. James Gillenwater, Jim Haynes, Dr. Robert McKinley, Lillian Simmons, Dr. and Mrs. Russell Starr.


HORSE CAVE: Reverend Sam Steward.

LOUISVILLE: Mr. and Mrs. Leonard C. Brecher, Helen E. Brownling, Floyd S. Carpenter, Carlisle Chamberlain, Jim Craddock, Joseph Croft, Marion Gilliam, Mrs. Charles Horner, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Mitchell, Dr. Adrian Pollock, Evelyn J. Schneider, Beatrice Short, Mabel Slack, Roderic Sommers, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Stamm, Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Thompson, Haven Wiley, Audrey Wright.

MURRAY: Dr. and Mrs. Hunter Hancock, Hunter M. Hancock.

PIEKEDVILLE: John A. Cheek.

SCOTTSVILLE: Mr. and Mrs. Crow.

SHELBYVILLE: Mr. and Mrs. Ben Allen Thomas.

STAMPING GROUND: Mr. and Mrs. Howard Jones.

VALLEY STATION: Mr. and Mrs. Donald Summerfield.

VERSAILLES: Mrs. Roe Read Adams.

CINCINNATI, OHIO: Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Bunnell.

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE: Mrs. Leon DeBrehun, Albert F. Ganier, Jennie Riggs, Ruth White.

FIELD NOTES

1956 FALL MIGRATION DATA FROM THE LOUISVILLE AREA

The migrants of the past summer and fall arrived here mostly on schedule, but some records are of especial interest. Weather conditions may have played a part in some of these finds. September was unusually cool, and several cold fronts were apparent: one was on September 8-9, another on September 18-20, and a third on September 24-26. Generally, October was very mild although there was a slight cold front on October 7-8 and again the latter part of the month. November was hot, rainy, snowy, and freezing; temperatures ranged from a summer-like 77 on November 3 to a frosty 18 degrees on November 23 and 24. Rain totalling 1.51 inches fell on six days during the month. We had 1.2 inches on November 23. The big drop in temperature came on November 8 and 9, when the thermometer hit 36 and 29, respectively. This period brought in ducks and geese; at least ten flocks were seen. Catherine Hope Noland and Joseph Croft
reported 25-40 Wood Ducks in the Caperton Swamp area on November 3. Ducks seemed to be here in smaller numbers than in previous years. However, a few Old-Squaws made their appearance in November.

Two immature Yellow-crowned Night Herons remained in Seneca Park until October 12 (J. C.) They had been observed weekly since early September by the writer and Croft. This is a late record.

Hawk migration was noticeable on September 24 and 25 and again on November 8.

Eleven Sandhill Cranes were noted on November 8 flying over Lakeside Drive.

Shore bird migration on the Falls of the Ohio was nil. Perhaps this was due to the high water. However, it may be worthy of mention that as many as 29 Caspian Terns were seen on September 15 by Leonard Brecher, Bernice Shannon, Roderic Sommers, and the writer.

A late record for this locality is that of an Olive-sided Flycatcher in Seneca Park on September 2 (A. L. S. and J. C.)

Blue Jay migration was noticeable: on October 6, a flock of 15, and on October 7 there was a steady stream of 155 birds within a matter of minutes. These birds were flying over our neighbor's yard and in a southwesterly direction.

Burt L. Monroe, Sr., reported a good flight of Gray-cheeked Thrushes. Large flocks of Robins began appearing in yards on September 6 and remained through October 28. A Veery on September 29, in the Caperton Swamp area by Roderic Sommers, is our only fall record.

Members of the Beckham Bird Club found hundreds of Cedar Waxwings in Bernheim Forest on September 23.

A good flight of Philadelphia Vireos was reported by Burt L. Monroe, Sr. He found nine in his yard between September 19 and September 23.

Warblers did not seem to come in waves, but fair numbers were found coming through on September 21 and 23; the Tennessees were predominant. Twenty Redstarts were seen in Seneca Park on September 8 (J. C.)

Since a species seldom seen in the fall is the Bobolink, it was a pleasant surprise when the writer and Croft found 40 of these birds on September 2, feeding on weed seeds in a meadow. We approached within a few yards of them.

Two Brewer's Blackbirds fed around my banding traps on September 17, and as many as five birds came for several days.

Large flocks of Brown-headed Cowbirds were found in numerous places, but particularly in Seneca Park, where on October 4 there were approximately 2200. On October 5 there were 5000. They came in flocks of 25, 50, 100, etc., and flew to trees and some to the ground, making it an easy matter to count numbers.

White-throated Sparrows were very common on October 11-21. A Lincoln Sparrow on September 29, by Roderic Sommers, is our earliest fall record. On the same date he observed 25 Rose-breasted Grosbeaks in the Caperton Swamp area.—ANNE L. STAMM, Louisville.

AN EARLY DATE FOR THE AMERICAN EGRET

On February 10, 1957, while driving along Route No. 64, four miles north of Vine Grove, in Meade County, Kentucky, I saw an American
Egret (Casmerodius albus). The bird was standing erect and still by the edge of a farm pond about an acre and a half large and wooded on two sides. There was only the one individual, and it has not been seen again, as of February 26, 1957. Whether this bird has actually wintered here, far north of its usual wintering range, or is only a very early "wanderer," I cannot say.

For some years now these birds have been extending their range noticeably, and it is not unreasonable to expect that they might soon nest here, following the pattern of the Yellow-Crowned Night Heron. As far as I know, this February 10th date marks the early (or late) date for this area. Since the water of the Ohio River was high and swift at this time, it could be that the bird was forced from it to higher ground. The winter in this part of the state has been mild so far, which might have contributed something to this bird's being here.

Although this was a sight record only, the bird was observed from about 40 yards distance. Having seen this species many times before, I am convinced that this identification is correct.—ROBERT H. STEILBERG, Elizabethtown.

BROAD-WINGED HAWKS MIGRATING OVER JEFFERSON COUNTY FOREST

On Sept. 24, 1956, I went to Jefferson County Forest to look for migrating hawks and particularly with the hope of finding flights of Broad-winged Hawks, Buteo platypterus. I went to a spot where the elevation is approximately 888 feet, and where it was possible to look over a considerable part of the forested area. This location is south of Louisville and a short distance from the Bullitt County line.

Weather conditions seemed favorable for hawk flights: the temperature had dropped fourteen degrees from the low of the preceding day; the wind was coming from the northeast at a velocity of 13 miles per hour at 2:00 P. M., and had decreased to eight miles an hour at 3:00 P. M. The afternoon was fairly bright, yet thin clouds obscured the sun somewhat, and a "ring" encircled it, giving a rather hazy appearance to the valley below.

I reached the area at 1:45 P. M. Surprisingly enough, five minutes later I saw the first hawk. It went by so rapidly that positive identification was impossible. At 2:00 P. M. I spotted a Broad-winged; fifteen minutes later a Cooper's Hawk, Accipiter cooperi. A flock of sixteen Broad-winged Hawks came into view at 2:25 P. M. and kept milling around as they moved southward. A Sharp-shinned Hawk, Accipiter striatus, followed this group; five minutes later six Broad-winged; then a Cooper's; two hawks unidentified as to family; and at 3:45 P. M. a flock of twenty-six Broad-winged Hawks passed over. This went on and on, and the hawks seemed to sail by in an effortless fashion, all following the same general course. Many flew at high elevations, but, as a rule, most Broad-wings flew at a lower level, soaring in a circular pattern that carried them in a southerly direction. I stopped watching at 4:30 P. M., and during the two hours and forty-five minutes, I had seen ninety-six hawks.

That evening I called some friends familiar with identifying birds of prey and asked if they could help observe on the following day. Unfortunately, it was during the week and impossible for them to assist.
The next morning, September 25, I arrived at the Forest at 11:30 A. M. and watched until 3:30 P. M. The wind was eight miles per hour and in the same direction as the previous day.

The hawks began appearing at 11:40, this time so high that on many occasions it was difficult to identify them as to family, and undoubtedly some escaped observation. The greater part of the time the hawks came singly and were not as numerous as on the 24th. Their flight was in a more southeasterly direction than the preceding day, when they flew directly south. Judging the direction from which they approached the forest, it is likely that they passed over the city of Louisville. During the four-hour period, 49 hawks were seen, thus making a total of 145 for the six hours and forty-five minutes of observation for both days; of this number 97 were Broad-wings. Other species recorded were: Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2; Cooper's Hawk, 8; Red-tailed Hawk, 10; Red-shouldered Hawk, 3; Sparrow Hawk, 2; unidentified accipiters, 8; unidentified buteos, 9; and unidentified as to family, 6.—ANNE U. STAMM, Louisville.

OKEECHOBEE FIELD TRIP

Nearly everyone who is interested in wildlife has heard or read about Lake Okeechobee in southern Florida and the abundance of water birds which regularly congregate there. It is the second largest fresh-water lake lying wholly within the boundaries of the United States. Its area is approximately 730 square miles. The surface of the lake is only about fifteen feet above sea level, and its maximum depth is said to be only about fourteen feet. Because of this extreme shallowness it is a natural paradise for wading birds and other aquatic feeders, such as the beautiful and once plentiful Everglade Kite.

During our previous trips to Florida we had skirted the edge of this large lake several times on our way to Hollywood, some sixty miles to the southeast, just catching tempting glimpses here and there. April, 1956, was going to be different. I decided to plan a special trip to this ornithological mecca.

I left Hollywood late in the afternoon on April 22. The sky was overcast with smoke coming from a raging grass fire in the "glades." The smoke was very thick in places along the highway and extended all the way to the lake. Things looked rather bad for a successful field trip.

That evening I met a veteran guide, Ed Doane, at Johnson's fishing camp in Clewiston. He agreed to take me out the following morning.

At 6:00 A. M. we departed for Turner's Cove in Observation Island, which lies about six miles out in the lake. Ed said that this was the most likely spot for seeing the "Snail Hawk," adding that he never failed to see it there and had even found the nests. Our equipment consisted of a 16-foot outboard runabout, a 15-HP motor, for getting there fast, and a 3-HP motor for the last mile, where the water would be too shallow for the larger motor; this would save a lot of poling.

A slight breeze came up from the northwest and cleared away most of the haze. By the time we reached the island, the sun was bright, and through the entrance to Turner's Cove we could see a huge glittering concentration of birds. The fire had evidently caused...
an unusually large number of birds: to take refuge there. As we neared
the island, the first bird that I could distinguish was an adult Ever-
glade Kite perched on a snag. We approached cautiously to about 50
yards before the bird flew. Later we saw two more Kites, which were
either females or juveniles, the two being nearly indistinguishable in
the field.

After dragging the boat across several bars, we were finally
forced to abandon it and wade the last quarter of a mile to the en-
trance of the cove. We were amazed to see a concentration of over
2000 individuals, which stretched out for several hundred yards to
our right and left. From our location I was able to identify 35 species.

We watched the Kites flying slowly over the area, occasionally
hovering like a Kestrel and then suddenly darting down after a small,
which they would carry in their feet to the nearest snag. Around the
base of each feeding roost was a collection of shells.

Within the flock of wading birds I quickly noticed the pale pink
of the Roseate Spoonbill. There were nine of them in all, and, accord-
ing to Mr. Allen Brokfield of the National Audubon Society, it was
"quite remarkable" to find them at Lake Okeechobee. A flock of
about 200 White Pelicans put on a show for us, circling and landing
several times. Black Skimmers, various ducks, and herons wheeled
overhead, sometimes very close and seemingly unafraid or even
curious.

Returning to Clewiston, we passed a large mud flat which was
literally swarming with Limpkins—80 by actual count. All around
Clewiston where cattle were grazing in the fields the Cattle Egret
can be seen. This spectacular addition to our American checklist, is
rapidly adapting itself to our country and extending its range north-
ward. According to Hurt Monroe, Sr., there is a good possibility of
this bird's appearing in Kentucky in the near future. Clewiston is
also well known for its small colony of Smooth-billed Anis. However,
a diligent search of the surrounding cane fields proved fruitless. Here
is a list of the 36 species seen on April 23, 1956. The star indicates an
estimate: White Pelican, 200*; Double-crested Cormorant, 25; Anhinga,
1; Great Blue Heron, 50*; American Egret, 1000*; Snowy Egret, 100*;
Cattle Egret, 25; Louisiana Heron, 30; Little Blue Heron, 200*; Green
Heron, 40*; Wood Ibis, 30; Glossy Ibis, 40*; White Ibis, 30*; Roseate
Spoobill, 8; Blue-winged Teal, 2; Florida Duck, 20; Lesser Scap
Duck, 50*; Turkey Vulture, 30; Everglade Kite, 3; Marsh Hawk, 2;
Osprey, 2; Limpkin, 150; Florida Gallinule, 2; Coot, 500*; Lesser Yel-
low-legs, 5; Black-necked Stilt, 20; Ring-billed Gull, 100*; Common
Tern, 28; Least Tern, 25; Black Skimmer, 50*; Belted Kingfisher, 1;
Rough-winged Swallow, 50*; Fish Crow, 50*; Mockingbird 20; Red-
wing, abundant; Boat-tailed Grackle, abundant.—THOMAS P.
SMITH, Louisville.

WALTER SHACKLETON DEAD

It is with the deepest regret that we report the death of Walter
H. Shackleton on February 9, 1957. Only a week prior to his death he
had returned from a lecture tour on the West Coast. He loved the
out-of-doors and especially the beautiful wooded surroundings of his
home in Sleepy Hollow, where he photographed all natural history
subjects. He toured this country as well as Canada as a lecturer with
the National Audubon Society's Screen Tours, showing his excellent
color films on the wild life of Kentucky. He became a Life Member
of our society and also contributed many notes about birds to the
KENTUCKY WARBLER.