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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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OUR COVER

On the cover is shown Audubon's interesting portrait of the Black-throated Blue Warbler on a Canadian columbine. This woodland warbler, although a rare transient throughout the state, is common during the summer months in the higher elevations of Black and Cumberland Mountains, as reported elsewhere in this issue.
NOTES FROM THE SOUTHEASTERN MOUNTAINS

JOSEPH E. CROFT

In 1967, 1968, and 1969 I made several early-summer trips to the mountains of southeastern Kentucky to study the birdlife there; this paper reports some of the results of those trips. These visits covered portions of four mountain ranges—Pine, Log, Cumberland, and Black Mountains—in Bell, Harlan, and Letcher Counties, as well as some of the lower-lying areas of those counties.

From June 10 to 14, 1968, I roamed through the southern half of Bell County, birding along the lower slopes of Pine Mountain, and along the higher ridges of Log Mountain, and along the crest of Cumberland Mountain. Log Mountain has evidently been previously investigated only by the National Museum party (Wetmore, 1940), in September 1938, at which time it was of course impossible definitely to distinguish summer resident species from transients. Once very difficult of access, the higher ridges of this mountain, ranging up to about 3,200 feet at isolated spots, can now be reached by the melancholy route of strip-mine roads and cuts. In a previous paper (Croft, 1969) I presented some winter observations from Cumberland Mountain, together with a brief description of the area. To my knowledge, nothing else has been written on the birds of this area. Elevations here range up to about 3,600 feet (the highest point, 3,613 feet, lying just across the Virginia line), making Cumberland second only to Black Mountain in elevation in Kentucky.

From May 28 to June 1, 1969, I again camped along the crest of Cumberland Mountain, within Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, twice covering the 16-mile ridgeline trail between the Pinnacle and White Rocks, but giving primary attention to the higher portion, between Hensley Settlement and White Rocks.
From June 9 to 13, 1969, I camped on Black Mountain. As the highest area in Kentucky (summit at 4,150 feet), Black Mountain has been repeatedly investigated, with particularly extensive work by Mengel (see especially Mengel, 1965:27-36), who has also summarized the previous work. Aside from a brief note by Barbour and Smith (1955), nothing seems to have been published based on field work here since the conclusion of Mengel's observations in 1962.

On June 13 and 14, 1969, I also visited the area known as Lilly's Woods, in western Letcher County. This 500-acre tract, composed largely of virgin timber and lying at elevations of roughly 1,100 to 1,900 feet, has been eloquently described by Caudill (1967) and has been the subject of several newspaper accounts in the past two years. This notable area, preserved by the foresight and independence of Lilly Cornett and his sons, has since (August 1969) been bought by the state of Kentucky for continued preservation in its natural state.

In the course of these visits I recorded 97 species, plus two more just across the state line in Virginia. The notes below include observations on distribution, with special attention to elevation; habitat preferences; effects of strip mining and other forms of disturbance; and miscellaneous subjects, including plumage, song, and predation.

Waterbirds. As is to be expected in this terrain, waterbirds were little in evidence; the only species I observed were four Green Herons (*Butorides virescens*) along Poor Fork of the Cumberland River on June 13 and 14, 1967, and some dozen Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) at Middlesboro on June 12, 1968. More attention to valley areas would doubtless produce more observations. Several reliable persons told me of a brood of ducks, species uncertain, raised along a stream in southwestern Letcher County in 1968.

Vultures. Single Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*), regarded as uncommon along the higher ridges, were recorded in 1967 over Pine Mountain, in 1968 near Pine Mountain State Park and over Cumberland Mountain, and again in 1969 over Cumberland Mountain. On June 13, 1968, I noted some dozen others in the valley east of Cumberland Mountain across the Virginia line. On May 28, 1969, one cruised down a few feet over Bailes Meadow, Cumberland Mountain, seemingly to investigate my pack, which I had left lying in an exposed spot.

On June 13, 1968, at White Rocks I watched two Black Vultures (*Coragyps atratus*) sail across the mountain and circle over the heavily forested valley on the Kentucky side; later that day I observed one several miles further down the ridge. At the time of Mengel's work the Black Vulture's summer range stopped rather abruptly at the Cumberland Plateau. Mengel's prediction (1965:203) that any incursion of this species would come from the expanding eastern range, rather than from the lowland population of central Kentucky, seems to have been well founded. To my knowledge, the only other summer record of this bird in the eastern mountains was made by Stamm (1961:71), who reported one bird in Whitley County, June 1960. In Lee County, Virginia, just to the east of Cumberland Mountain, Murray and Grey (1964:44) have recently recorded the species as "fairly common."

Hawks. On June 10, 1968, I recorded a single Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) along Laurel Creek, Bell County; there seem to be only two previous published reports from the eastern mountains (see Mengel, 1965:212). Red-tailed (*B. jamaicensis*) and Broad-winged (*B. platypterus*) Hawks were noted at various localities. On June 12, 1968, I noted a female...
Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius*) on Log Mountain at 2,900 feet, around dead snags and exposed rock faces resulting from strip mining. No evidence of Peregrine Falcons (*F. peregrinus*) was found in any area; apparently the last summer record of this vanishing bird in eastern Kentucky was made in July 1964 (Croft, Rowe, and Wiley, 1965:3).

**Ruffed Grouse** (*Bonasa umbellus*). I observed grouse on Pine Mountain in 1967 (three birds at two spots; one bird a juvenile; one adult allowed my car to approach within five yards), on Cumberland Mountain in 1968 and 1969 (including several broods, groups of six to eight birds, especially in rhododendron tangles near water; others along the ridge, especially about dense growths of ferns, notably the large cinnamon fern), and on Black Mountain in 1969.

On June 12, 1969, along an old logging trail at about 3,600 feet on Black Mountain, I watched an interesting performance by an adult grouse. Accompanied by at least five young about the size of Starlings (much the youngest brood I observed), she (sex assumed) walked in an extremely stiff-appearing posture, very close to the ground, with both head and tail much depressed, scurrying over a log in this fashion and on into the undergrowth. All the while she gave a peculiar whistled note, reminiscent of the common call of the Broad-winged Hawk but more querulous sounding, especially toward the end. I heard various clucking and growling notes from other hens with broods.

It may be worth mentioning here that a reliable Louisville hunter tells me he shot two grouse in Lincoln County during a recent hunting season, in what is apparently the far western edge of this bird’s Kentucky range.

**Doves-Cuckoos.** On June 13, 1969, I noted what was probably a wild-nesting Rock Dove (*Columba livia*) flying to a rock outcrop along a highway in western Letcher County. Mourning Doves (*Zenaida macroura*) were noted in very small numbers along the ridgetops of Pine, Log, and Cumberland Mountains, and in somewhat greater numbers in the valleys. On June 1, 1969, one bird called repeatedly and later flew by at Bailes Meadow, Cumberland Mountain, 3,500 feet. Yellow-billed Cuckoos (*Coccyzus americanus*) were common throughout the area. Black-billed Cuckoos (*C. erythrophthalmus*), though presumed to be widely distributed in the mountains, are represented in the literature by few actual summer records. I recorded one bird on Log Mountain, June 13, 1968 (singing from a thicket, 3,000 feet), one on Cumberland Mountain, May 29, 1969 (woods edge at Hensley Settlement, 3,200 feet), and two others on Cumberland Mountain, May 31, 1969 (one singing from dry pine-oak hillside, 3,100 feet; another seen in trees at edge of hemlock-rhododendron glade, 3,100 feet). These observations suggest a rather considerable range of habitats occupied by the species.

**Owls-Goatsuckers.** On the night of June 11, 1967, I heard two Barred Owls (*Strix varia*) from my campsite along the Little Shepherd Trail, and on June 13 heard the surprising total of five at Whitesburg, some of them in the valley along the North Fork of the Kentucky River, others rather high up on the slopes of Pine Mountain. There seems to be only one previous report of this species in the far southeastern mountains (Breiding, 1947:88). Unfortunately I did not have much opportunity to check in the valleys for possible Chuck-will’s-widows (*Caprimulgus carolinensis*), which have yet to be recorded from eastern Kentucky, though the species has recently been recorded in nearby Lee County, Virginia (Murray and Grey, 1964:43).

**Swift-Kingfisher.** Small numbers of Chimney Swifts (*Chaetura pelagi-
were regularly seen along the highest ridgetops of Pine, Log, and Cumberland Mountains, sometimes in areas of very extensive forests; it would be interesting to know definitely whether at least some of these birds nested in trees (see Stupka, 1963:78 for a brief summary of references to this subject in the southern Appalachians). To one accustomed to seeing hummingbirds primarily about gardens and in farming districts, a female Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) sitting quietly in the deep shade of a cool rhododendron thicket the evening of June 13, 1968, at 3,000 feet on Cumberland Mountain, was a bit unexpected. Mengel (1965:289), however, has pointed out the cosmopolitan occurrence of the bird. A few were also noted at other localities. Single Belted Kingfishers (*Megaceryle alcyon*), sparsely distributed in the mountains, were recorded in valleys in 1967 in Letcher County and in 1968 in Bell County.

**Woodpeckers.** Single Red-bellied Woodpeckers (*Centurus carolinus*), seldom recorded in the southeastern counties, were noted in Harlan (June 15, 1967, 1,800 feet), Bell (June 12, 1968, 1,300 feet), and Letcher (June 13, 1969, approx. 1,500 feet, possibly more than one bird) Counties; another was recorded June 1, 1969, on the Virginia side of Cumberland Mountain, 2,800 feet. On June 12, 1968, a Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*) flew over Log Mountain, 3,200 feet. On June 12, 1969, at 3,800 feet on Black Mountain, for several minutes in good light I watched a Hairy Woodpecker with a distinctly yellow, rather than red, spot on the crown. Peterson (1947:154) mentions yellowish or orange spots as a rare aberration in immature Hairy Woodpeckers.

**Flycatchers.** Eastern Phoebes (*Sayornis phoebe*) were widely distributed about road cuts, natural cliffs (an interesting example being a bird apparently nesting some 20 feet up in a crevice under the huge overhang at Sand Cave, Cumberland Mountain, June 1969), and rock faces exposed by mining operations. A nest in a sheet-metal shed in Letcher County, June 13, 1967, held four newly hatched young.

Perhaps the most unexpected bird recorded was a territorial Least Flycatcher (*Empidonax minimus*), singing persistently in a woodland near Whitesburg at 1,800 feet elevation, in association with typical Carolinian species. I located this bird by its distinctive song on June 13, 1967, when I followed its activities at length, and observed it again the following day. The bird was in a deciduous woodland at the base of Pine Mountain; the dominant trees were beech and white oak, with a fairly dense understory including saplings of tulip poplar, buckeye, hickory, dogwood, and red and sugar maples. Between the understory and the foliage of the larger trees there was a rather open zone, and it was primarily in and near this zone, in an area roughly circular and about 100 feet across, that the flycatcher did most of its singing.

Other species inhabiting this woodland were Acadian Flycatcher (*Empidonax virescens*), Carolina Chickadee (*Parus carolinensis*), Tufted Titmouse (*Parus bicolor*), Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea*), Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*), Black-and-white (*Mniotilta varia*), Worm-eating (*Helmitheros vermivora*), Cerulean (*Dendroica cerulea*), and Kentucky (*Oporornis formosa*) Warblers, Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapillus*), Louisiana Waterthrush (*S. motacilla*), and Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*); noted in the understory were Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*), Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*), and Cardinal (*Richmondena cardinalis*).

The presence of the Acadian and Least Flycatchers in the same woodland was of course especially interesting. At no time did I observe any inter-
action between the two species. The plumage differences between the two, it might be noted, were quite evident in this particular situation. The Least Flycatcher, typically, sang with great regularity and repetitiveness; during one typical five-minute I counted 148 songs. During this time a nearby Acadian Flycatcher sang only once, possibly in part indicative of its being in a different stage of the breeding cycle.

Despite an intensive search I was unable to locate a nest of the Least Flycatcher, nor did I see a second bird. I did locate two Acadian nests, both in beeches and of typical construction. One of these, containing at least two eggs, with the bird incubating, was suspended 15 feet above a dirt lane along the edge of the woods and about 25 yards from the territory of the Least Flycatcher. The other nest was perhaps 75 yards away, three feet above the ground, containing four eggs.

Mengel (1965:28-29, 315-316) concluded that there was no satisfactory evidence for the occurrence of the Least Flycatcher as a summer resident in Kentucky, though he makes no mention of Olsen's reports (1935a, b; 1938) of this species as a summer resident at Pippapass, Knott County, in 1935 and 1936. Throughout the Appalachian region the species seems a bit of a puzzler. Nowhere does it seem to be regarded as really common, even at the higher elevations. The occurrence of the present bird at so low an elevation is surprising. Reports (Scott, 1966:73) of the species at elevations down to 1,650 feet in Washington County, Virginia, are of particular interest in connection with the present record.

In June 1969 I made a brief stop at this area, where the habitat remained essentially unchanged, but found no evidence of the Least Flycatcher.

The Traill's Flycatcher (Empidonax traillii), notably expanding its range southward into parts of Kentucky and other states (Croft, 1961, 1964), was not recorded, although I searched a number of areas of seemingly suitable habitat. In some of these I feel confident there were no birds or nests of this species, while in others they could well have escaped detection; yet other likely areas could not be searched in the time available. One of the earliest records of this species from the southern Appalachians came from nearby Abingdon, Virginia (Stevenson, 1947), and the species has more recently been recorded in Scott County, Virginia (Murray and Grey, 1965:52). It seems very likely that the bird is present in small numbers in eastern Kentucky. It might be worth mentioning that on one occasion I noticed an Empidonax flycatcher in a small willow growth across the lane from the woodland where the Acadian and Least Flycatchers were present. This bird in typical Traill's habitat proved to be an Acadian Flycatcher ranging out from its nearby nest.

On May 28, 1969, I recorded an Olive-sided Flycatcher (Nuttallornis borealis) perched in a dead snag at Bailes Meadow, Cumberland Mountain, 3,600 feet. This bird, perhaps 10 yards across the Virginia line, flew off along the ridge on the Virginia side. It may be assumed that this was a transient individual of a species well known for its late spring migration.

Swallows-Wrens. On June 12, 1968, I saw a Rough-winged Swallow (Stelgidopteryx ruficollis) flying about a strip-mining bank at 3,000 feet on Log Mountain, and on June 11, 1969, one flew over Black Mountain at 4,150 feet. Barn Swallows (Hirundo rustica), previously almost unknown in the southeastern counties (only report by Stamm, 1961:74), were noted in small numbers in many valley areas. On June 16, 1967, a workman pointed out to me two nests on a porch at the Pine Mountain Settlement
School, Harlan County; one held two eggs, the other four very small young. Another pair evidently nested in a barn in Letcher County where I slept one night in June 1969. On May 29, 1969, one Barn Swallow flew over the summit of Cumberland Mountain, 3,500 feet, where I also noted a Purple Martin (Progne subis) on June 19, 1968.

In June 1969 I heard three or more widely scattered Common Crows (Corvus brachyrhynchos) at elevations above 3,500 feet on Black Mountain; the species seems to have been recorded only once previously on the higher parts of the mountain (Mengel, 1965:333). On June 14, 1967, I heard a House Wren (Troglodytes aedon) singing at Whitesburg. There seems to be only one previous summer record from the eastern mountains, in July 1933 in Pike County, some 40 miles to the northeast (Wetmore, 1940:648).

Mimids-Shrike. A few Mockingbirds (Mimus polyglottos), little known in the southeastern mountains, were recorded. One sang through the night of June 13-14, 1967, at Whitesburg; I noted another on the latter date in Harlan County, and one in Bell County on May 28, 1969. A few Robins (Turdus migratorius) were noted in high, largely forested areas away from their more familiar cultivated habitats; the most interesting example was one in extensive forest on the ridge of Cumberland Mountain, May 29, 1969. The Veery (Hylocichla fuscescens), so characteristic of the forests at higher elevations on Black Mountain, has been unknown elsewhere in Kentucky in summer. On May 30, 1969, in a damp rhododendron thicket at 3,200 feet on Cumberland Mountain, I was pleased to hear the haunting song of one of these birds. On Black Mountain the evening chorus of Veeries is one of the more delightful ornithological features. Three pairs of Eastern Bluebirds (Sialia sialis), plus an additional female accompanied by a young bird begging for food, were noted in disturbed areas at elevations of 2,900 to 3,000 feet on Log Mountain, June 12, 1968. Numerous others were locally distributed in open valleys.

In 1967 and 1968 I observed Cedar Waxwings (Bombycilla cedrorum) in numerous areas through the mountains, and found two nests. In 1969 only a few were observed; it is of some interest that, conversely, at this time there were numerous reports of the species in the counties around Louisville, where it is ordinarily very scarce or absent in summer. On June 13, 1967, I found a nest on a cutover hillside in the valley of Poor Fork, Letcher County, 35 feet up in a pitch pine, with the bird incubating. On June 14, 1968, I noted another building a nest 20 feet up in an apple tree by an old cabin on Cumberland Mountain, 3,000 feet. In June 1968 I observed two Loggerhead Shrikes (Lanius ludovicianus) in the valley on the Virginia side of Cumberland Mountain, and in June 1969 observed one there again. This species has yet to be reported from the mountain counties of Kentucky (Mengel, 1965:374-376).

Vireos. On June 10, 1969, I found two White-eyed Vireos (Vireo griseus) singing in thickets at widely separated spots at elevations of 3,700 to 3,800 feet on Black Mountain. The following day I recorded one of these birds again, plus two others in similar situations. These birds were unexpected in view of the previous lack of records above 2,600 feet (Mengel, 1965:378). On June 13, 1968, at Lilly's Woods I found a Yellow-throated Vireo (V. flavifrons) giving, in addition to its regular song, a series of husky notes, reminiscent of scolding notes of the Tufted Titmouse, followed by a thin rapid warbling, rising then falling. The Solitary Vireo (V. solitarius), previously known from Pine and Black Mountains (Mengel, 1965:380-381), was also recorded in small numbers on Log Mountain, 3,100
feet, June 10 and 11, 1968, and in somewhat greater numbers on Cumberland Mountain, 2,500 to 3,400 feet, June 14, 1968, and May 29-31, 1969. One of the Solitary Vireos recorded June 14, 1968, regularly ended its song with a chickadee-like chatter. Single Warbling Vireos (V. gilvus), little known in the eastern mountains, were recorded at Whitesburg, June 13, 1967, and in central Knox County, May 28, 1969.

**Warblers.** Throughout the Cumberlands the diversity and abundance of wood warblers furnish a primary attraction. I recorded 22 species, and notes on some of these are presented here.

Black-and-white Warblers were numerous throughout the area, in a variety of forest types. At the time of my visits in 1967 and 1968, in the second week of June, a great many birds were observed with young out of the nest; in 1969 the breeding season was evidently somewhat delayed, for I observed no young birds during the corresponding period that year.

I recorded individual Swainson’s Warblers (Lamothlypis swainsonii) in Letcher County on June 13 and 14, 1967, at two localities in Bell County on June 10, 1968, and at Breaks Interstate Park on June 14, 1969. All four birds were found in rhododendron tangles of varying size.

The Letcher County bird inhabited a narrow band of rhododendron, measuring roughly 25 by 200 yards, extending along the base of a wooded hillside and bordering a large, rather marshy field, at an elevation of 1,800 feet. There was standing water in some parts of the rhododendron tangle, and holly grew in some parts; the area was shaded by hemlock, tulip poplar, and Fraser’s magnolia. Birds inhabiting the wooded area just above the rhododendron included the Black-and-white, Parula (Parula americana), Black-throated Green (Dendroica virens), Kentucky, and Hooded (Wilsonia citrina) Warblers, with a Worm-eating Warbler slightly further up the hillside.

This bird was discovered by its song of five, or occasionally six, notes, akin to that of the Louisiana Waterthrush in quality, though, as I recorded in my field notes, the phrasing and emphasis of the final notes were, rather surprisingly, suggestive of a song of the White-eyed Vireo. Brooks and Legg (1942:82) have similarly characterized the song of Swainson’s Warblers which they found in West Virginia. Though the bird sang persistently, sometimes close by, it took me more than half an hour of stalking and waiting to get a really good view of it; finally I was able to watch it singing 10 yards away. I searched the entire tangle with some care, but was unable to find a nest.

One of the birds on June 10, 1968, was further up the valley of Poor Fork, in Bell County, at an elevation of about 1,200 feet. This bird sang repeatedly from an extremely dense rhododendron tangle on a hillside overlooking a creek and forested by hemlock, bigleaf magnolia, beech, and other trees. That same day I heard another bird sing briefly from a hemlock-rhododendron ravine in Pine Mountain State Park, at an elevation of roughly 1,400 feet. The bird at Breaks Interstate Park, June 14, 1969, was singing in an extensive rhododendron glade along a small stream, elevation approximately 1,400 feet; this particular spot was several hundred yards across the state line in Dickenson County, Virginia.

All four birds were in habitats very similar to those described by Brooks and Legg (1942:78-79) and Mengel (1965:391) for Swainson’s Warblers in, respectively, West Virginia and eastern Kentucky. Previous eastern Kentucky records are from Harlan (Breiding, 1944, 1947:39), Pike (Mengel, loc. cit.), and Letcher (Clark, 1963) Counties.
The Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*) has, if anything, been even more elusive than Swainson's Warbler as a summer bird in Kentucky. Except for a single isolated record in Hopkins County (Hancock, 1947), the species has previously been recorded in summer on Black Mountain only, and there only in very small numbers (maximum of four, reported by Breiding, 1947:39). Mengel (1965:394), judging from the bird’s distribution in Tennessee, suspected it of breeding elsewhere in Kentucky, but found no others; Rowe, Wiley, and I have previously looked for it about lumbering clearings on the Cumberland Plateau, but likewise without success. Thus I was particularly interested to find some dozen birds of this species on the ridges of Pine, Cumberland, and Black Mountains, and in the valley between Pine and Black Mountains.

I first located the Golden-winged Warbler on June 12, 1967, when I saw two and heard another on Pine Mountain, at scattered spots with elevations of about 2,800 feet. All three birds were in dry ridgetop clearings with a heavy shrubby growth of chestnut and black oaks, black locust, sassafras, and other trees, with considerable thickets of blackberries. A sign erected at one of these localities by the Kentucky Division of Forestry stated that the area had been burned over in a forest fire in November 1960.

On June 13, 1967, I located three more birds singing on a dry, cut-over hillside, elevation 2,200 feet, in the valley between Pine and Black Mountains. One of these birds gave a song like that of the Blue-winged Warbler (*V. pinus*) in the midst of typical Golden-wing songs. I tracked this bird down and studied it carefully; it appeared a typical Golden-winged Warbler in all respects.

On June 13, 1968, I heard one Golden-winged Warbler in a thicket on Cumberland Mountain, elevation 3,400 feet. The following year, from May 28 to June 1, 1969, I located several others on this mountain. One bird on May 29 was observed singing at 3,300 feet on the Bell County portion of the mountain. On May 31 I was startled to find another moving about quietly 40 feet up in trees in a cool rhododendron glade at 3,000 feet; later I heard what may have been the same bird singing from further up the trail on a dry hillside. The other Golden-wings were recorded several times about Bailes Meadow, Harlan County, at elevations of 3,400 to 3,500 feet; on the morning of June 1, four birds were singing persistently here.

On Black Mountain I recorded only two Golden-wings. On June 10, 1969, one sang occasionally in a shrubby clearing at 3,900 feet; later that day I watched another moving about in the trees on a moist hillside at 3,800 feet, with an interesting assortment of Chestnut-sided (*Dendroica pensylvanica*), Kentucky, Hooded, and Canada (*Wilsonia canadensis*) Warblers all within 10 yards.

The two observations of Golden-wings in moist forested areas, particularly the one on Cumberland Mountain, indicate that this species may at times forage in areas quite unlike its usual dry brushy habitat. It is of interest that neither of these birds (both adult males) was singing. During spring migration, when a somewhat wider habitat range is naturally expected, I have several times seen Golden-wings high in trees along creek bottoms in the Louisville region, as well as in other moist wooded situations.

It may be mentioned that in its usual summer habitat the Golden-winged Warbler is very easily overlooked when not singing. Even when singing, the bird’s habit of sitting motionless inside the foliage cover usually makes it, in my experience at least, a difficult creature to observe.
Yellow Warblers (*Dendroica petechia*) were very common at suitable streamside locations in the valleys, but apparently absent at higher elevations. On June 14, 1967, I recorded as many as 40 singing males in the valley of Poor Fork.

Black-throated Blue Warblers (*D. caerulescens*), long known as one of the commonest warblers in the forests of Black Mountain, also proved common at the higher elevations of Cumberland Mountain, where I found them in 1968 and 1969. The birds here range in a band about seven miles long, extending along and just below the crest, at elevations of about 3,000 to 3,400 feet. They are somewhat unevenly distributed, being most evident in the moister locations and absent in many of the drier areas. The species is perhaps most evident in and about a moist forest, including a hemlock-rhododendron glade, along Martin’s Fork, where from one spot as many as a half-dozen birds may be heard singing. The elevation here is about 3,000 feet; the species is evidently much less regular at corresponding elevations on Black Mountain (Mengel, 1965:403). This attractive bird is easily observed and is one of the most characteristic inhabitants of these cool forests.

Black-throated Green Warblers were noted in many areas, particularly on Pine Mountain and at various locations in the valleys. I did not record any on the higher elevations of Cumberland or Black Mountains. The only birds recorded on Cumberland Mountain were several in the oak woods on the Virginia side of the mountain, at about 2,500 feet. Whether coincidental or otherwise, it was of some interest that all of more than a dozen birds recorded on Pine Mountain on June 12, 1967, were on the northwestern slope, none on the southeastern. This bird has an exceptionally interesting distribution in Kentucky (see Mengel, 1965:405-407).

Much remains to be learned about the distribution of the Cerulean Warbler in eastern Kentucky. In June 1967 I recorded it regularly along the northwestern slope of Pine Mountain in Harlan and Letcher Counties. Black-throated Green Warblers were present at many of these localities, and, overall, outnumbered the Cerulean by perhaps as much as three to one. On June 11 and 12, 1968, I found the Cerulean at all elevations on Logan Mountain, where over a considerable area it seemed second only to the Redstart (*Setophaga ruticilla*) in abundance, though closely followed by the Black-and-white Warbler. I did not record the species at higher elevations on Cumberland Mountain.

Somewhat puzzlingly, I recorded only one Blackburnian Warbler (*D. fusca*), a female on June 11, 1969, at 4,000 feet on Black Mountain. Perhaps I overlooked the species because of lack of familiarity with its songs, though I had no trouble locating fair numbers of Blackburnians by song in the high Tennessee mountains a few days later.

The Yellow-throated Warbler (*D. dominica*) has especially interesting habitat preferences in Kentucky. The classic picture, as outlined by Mengel (1965:412), may be summarized as: bald cypress in the western lowlands, sycamores throughout central Kentucky (around Louisville the bird is still commonly, and appropriately, called the “Sycamore Warbler”), and pines in eastern Kentucky. Rowe, Wiley, and I have in previous years observed small numbers of these birds in pines along the western edge of the Cumberland Plateau.

It was of interest, then, to find Yellow-throated Warblers present in several distinct habitats in southeastern Kentucky. My first indication of the presence of the bird in sycamores here came on June 12, 1967, when
I heard two singing in sycamores along the North Fork of the Kentucky River at Whitesburg; later I found others in similar situations. Of 22 birds on which I have definite notes, nine were in streamside sycamores, six in pines, four in oaks, one in pine-oak woods, and two in "conglomerate" woodlands. Sometimes the birds occupied two distinct habitats within a limited area. For example, on June 13, 1969, I saw two Yellow-throated Warblers in hillside oak woods at Lilly's Woods, and heard another in streamside sycamores hardly a quarter of a mile distant. Ganier and Clebsch (1940:58) recorded several in oak forest on the Cumberland Plateau in Tennessee, while Coffey (1939:54) reported others in "an upland oak-hickory-pine woods" in northeastern Mississippi. Taken together, these observations, including particularly the substantial number of birds found in sycamores in the Kentucky mountains, suggest some modification of Mengel's concluding remarks (loc. cit.) on habitat preferences.

Chestnut-sided Warblers, familiar in brushy areas throughout the higher elevations of Black Mountain, were recorded on Log and Cumberland Mountains as well. I found a few in disturbed areas at the top of Log Mountain, at elevations of 2,900 to 3,100 feet, on June 11 and 12, 1968. Greater numbers were found on Cumberland Mountain, at elevations of 3,100 to 3,500 feet, on June 13 and 14, 1968. From May 28 through June 1, 1969, I recorded the birds wherever there were brushy areas above approximately 2,900 feet on Cumberland Mountain, in a band extending some eight miles along the ridge and higher slopes. On June 1, I estimated 10 males singing in an area of some 20 acres about Bailes Meadow. This species, unlike the Golden-winged Warbler, which is found in some of the same areas, lends itself readily to observation, singing through most of the day, commonly from exposed perches.

In many areas of oak forest Ovenbirds were the commonest warbler, conspicuous on account of their song. On May 30, 1969, I encountered a pair of agitated Ovenbirds along the ridge trail on Cumberland Mountain, chirping loudly and giving a spread-wing display around an unidentified snake about three feet long. On a number of occasions at dusk and after dark I heard Ovenbirds singing their flight song, well described by Sanders (1951:204-205). It might also be mentioned that some of the Ovenbirds in these mountains often give a song composed entirely of single, rather than double, notes, sometimes sounding very like the song of a Prothonotary Warbler (Protonotaria citrea), a species which I did not record here.

Canada Warblers, widespread at higher elevations on Black Mountain, were also recorded at one location on Cumberland Mountain. On June 13, 1968, in a streamside rhododendron glade at 3,000 feet I watched a pair of these birds as they flitted about, chirping in an agitated manner, and afterwards heard another singing nearby. On May 29-31, 1969, I again observed the birds at the same locality.

Icterids. This thriving group of birds now occupies extreme southeastern Kentucky in substantial numbers. Eastern Meadowlarks (Sturnella magna), Red-winged Blackbirds (Agelaius phoeniceus), Common Grackles (Quiscalus quiscula), and Brown-headed Cowbirds (Molothrus ater) are present in most areas where anything approaching suitable habitat is to be found, and thus seem to have increased considerably since the time of Mengel's observations. I often recorded these species in small and sometimes remote valley areas. In addition, Cowbirds were widespread in moderate numbers all along the ridgetops. The largest group of Meadowlarks
noted was six at the Harlan airport, elevation 1,550 feet, June 14, 1967. The largest flock of Crackles encountered numbered over 100 birds, at the base of Cumberland Mountain on the Virginia side, June 13, 1968; numerous smaller groups were seen in the Kentucky counties.

In June 1968 I found several Redwing nests, all empty, in valley areas. A particularly interesting example of the adaptability which has sent the Redwing population skyrocketing was provided by a pair noted on June 12, 1968, at 2,800 feet on Log Mountain, at a tiny cattail pond in a mining clearing, with heavy forest extending for miles in all directions. On June 15, 1967, at the Pine Mountain Settlement School, where some 20 Redwings were in evidence about the small hay fields, I saw a Common Crow, carrying a fairly small bird in its claws, flying off vigorously pursued by two Redwings. Other instances of Crow predation, more often spoken of than actually observed, have been reported by Moore (1936: turtle), Sister Bonaventure (1948: Robin egg), and Stamm (1954: Robin nestlings).

Small numbers of Orchard Orioles (Icterus spurius) were encountered in scattered lowland areas in Letcher, Harlan, Bell, and Knox Counties.

**Finches-Sparrows.** On June 10, 1968, at Pine Mountain State Park I noted a Cardinal singing a “whisper” song. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks (*Pheucticus ludovicianus*) were found only on Black Mountain, where the species is numerous. It is possible that a few may occur on Cumberland Mountain, but I was unable to find any there. On June 10, 1968, on the lower slopes of Pine Mountain in Bell County, I encountered a Rufous-sided Towhee (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) which consistently prefaced its common “drink-your-tea” song with a series of three rapid, usually guttural, notes which I transcribed as “deedle-deedle-deep.” Sometimes these opening notes sounded very like a portion of a Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) song. On August 10, 1969, at Charlottesville, Virginia, I heard a bird singing a somewhat similar but shorter song, beginning with three clear, distinct notes, the third very emphatic, followed by a sharp break and pause, then the usual trill. Saunders (1929:33, 57) has some interesting comments on variant towhee songs.

I was surprised to hear a Bachman’s Sparrow (*Aimophila aestivalis*) sing from a shrubby field at Hensley Settlement, Cumberland Mountain, 3,200 feet, late in the afternoon of May 30, 1969. Slate-colored Juncos (*Junco hyemalis*), as expected, were recorded only on Black Mountain. It may be worth mentioning here that on June 17, 1969, at Newfound Gap in the Great Smoky Mountains, I saw an adult junco in typical plumage except for a narrow but distinct band of white extending all the way across the base of the nape.

**A Note on Strip Mining**

As has become increasingly well known, large portions of the eastern Kentucky mountains have been unfortunately disfigured in recent years by strip mining. These mining operations have moved far back into the mountains with extraordinary power and destructive energy. Some of the most thoroughgoing operations I saw were on Log Mountain, where the disturbance of the original ecology has been extreme. In some areas of considerable extent, the disturbance has been much more severe than on most of the tank gunnery ranges where I have birded at Fort Knox.

The impact of such disturbance on the bird life has of course taken many forms. On the one hand, there can be no doubt that it has directly resulted in some diminution of populations of forest-inhabiting birds. Com-
paring areas in the vicinity of strip mining operations to others left undisturbed, I suspect that the Hooded Warbler has been one of the species most strongly affected in this regard. Many other woodland birds could of course be mentioned as well.

On the other hand, the openings created by mining operations, once they begin to become overgrown, have naturally been responsible for the incursion or increase of typical brush-inhabiting birds. On June 11, 1968, I walked for some two miles along an abandoned strip mining cut at 2,300 feet on an outlying ridge of Log Mountain. Portions of this cut had been planted to black locust, while some tulip poplar saplings were also present, as well as the expected sassafras and blackberry. The most evident birds along here were the Yellowthroat (Geothlypis trichas), Yellow-breasted Chat, Indigo Bunting (Passerina cyanea), and Rufous-sided Towhee; however, neither the Prairie Warbler (Dendroica discolor) nor Field Sparrow (Spizella pusilla), which might have been expected, were noted. I also noted five Phoebes at various locations along rock faces exposed by the mining.

Other birds for whose presence mining operations were probably in part responsible included the Rough-winged Swallow, Bluebirds, and Red-winged Blackbirds on Log Mountain as mentioned above, and possibly the Sparrow Hawk also mentioned earlier.

If these observations seem at first to create the impression that strip mining has introduced more birds than it has displaced, two salient points should be kept in mind: 1) The more extensively strip-mined areas have much smaller bird populations than those found in similarly sized areas covered by the rich native hardwood forests of these mountains. This difference is readily apparent to any observer. 2) Strip mining, of whatever extent, is so traumatic a disturbance of a complex, subtly organized environment that it cannot fail to have many effects not immediately apparent to this untrained eye. The pollution of the environment by acid waters released by mining operations, for example, must have far-reaching effects. It is also quite possible that the mining roads and cuts which gave me ready access to the higher reaches of Log Mountain may at the same time have wiped out a few of the ridgetop birds which would have constituted a primary ornithological interest of the mountain. In sum, though there is a certain gruesome fascination to these strange works of man high in these otherwise forest-cloaked mountains, strip mining can hardly be regarded, ecologically as well as socially, as other than a disaster.

These comments are all, of course, impressions gathered more or less incidentally; it would be most desirable to have some specific, objectively detailed investigations of this subject.

General Comments

These visits, albeit abbreviated, to portions of each of the four major mountain groups in southeastern Kentucky have particularly impressed me with the relative meagerness of Kentucky's complement of "northern" species, both in variety of species and number of individuals. Black Mountain alone supports really large populations of these birds, and this mountain, hardly reaching above 4,000 feet and supporting no high-elevation coniferous forest of any kind, necessarily lacks many species found on the higher peaks of our neighboring states of Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia. Additionally, large areas of eastern Kentucky have been especially ill affected by logging, mining, and other forms of human disturbance.

The higher reaches of Cumberland Mountain support all but three of
the more northerly species found on Black Mountain, though the populations of most of those occurring are much below the levels found on Black Mountain. Cumberland Mountain, with its most attractive reaches embraced by a national park and so freed from the less desirable forms of human disturbance evident on Black Mountain, is in some respects a more desirable area for the itinerant ornithologist. Unfortunately, the narrow and ecologically fragile crest of this mountain is threatened by a proposed highway building scheme. In addition to its inevitable adverse effect on the small ridgetop populations of northern birds found here, such a road would destroy the comparative isolation which constitutes a primary charm of this area. And despite a large segment of popular opinion, genuine isolation and wilderness are extremely scarce commodities even in the eastern Kentucky mountains; the domain of the beer can and Kleenex is well-nigh universal.

A very great deal still remains to be learned about the birdlife of the Kentucky mountains. Mengel's study of breeding distribution, combined with his summary and evaluation of previous observations, has provided a highly serviceable base for further work. Future study will probably show that some species currently represented by few or scattered records are in fact relatively widespread. Nonetheless, in view of the present need for additional information, I have here recounted many of my own observations at some length. Observations up to the present have generally, in keeping with Kentucky tradition, been scattered and individualistic in nature. In so extensive an area, an individual observer must apply a great deal of effort to accumulate any representative amount of information. Perhaps in future years cooperative efforts, such as those employed so successfully in Tennessee in the 1930's and more recently in the Virginias, will provide the most fruitful approach. A group of capable, well-organized, and slightly fanatic observers following well-laid plans could accomplish much.

Summary

1. Notes are presented on observations made during four early-summer trips in 1967, 1968, and 1969 in southeastern Kentucky, particularly on Pine, Log, Cumberland, and Black Mountains, with additional observations from other areas.

2. A total of 97 species were recorded, plus two others just across the state line in Virginia.

3. Blue-headed Vireos and Golden-winged Warblers were found on Pine Mountain, with a maximum elevation of approximately 2,800 feet.

4. The only species of northern affinities found on Log Mountain, with a maximum elevation of approximately 3,200 feet and much disturbed by mining operations, were the Black-billed Cuckoo, Blue-headed Vireo, and Chestnut-sided Warbler, all occurring in small numbers.

5. Cumberland Mountain, with a maximum elevation of 3,500 feet and now included in a national park, supports moderate populations of Blue-headed Vireos and Black-throated Blue and Chestnut-sided Warblers, lesser numbers of Black-billed Cuckoos and Golden-winged Warblers, and a few Canada Warblers; the Veery was also recorded at one location.

6. Species and relative numbers recorded from Black Mountain were essentially the same as those reported by previous observers.

7. A territorial Least Flycatcher was recorded at 1,300 feet in a deciduous woodland in Letcher County.

8. Swainson's Warbler was recorded at three points in Bell and Letcher
Counties, with an additional bird just across the Pike County line in Virginia.

9. A number of essentially open-country birds were found to be more widespread or to occur in substantially greater numbers than previously reported for the far southeastern counties. These include the Barn Swallow, Mockingbird, Eastern Bluebird, Eastern Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Common Grackle, and Brown-headed Cowbird.

10. A few woodland birds characteristic of lowland areas further west and little known in the southeastern mountains were recorded. These include the Black Vulture, Red-shouldered Hawk, Barred Owl, and Red-bellied Woodpecker.

11. Observations on variant songs are presented for the Yellow-throated and Blue-headed Vireos, Ovenbird, Cardinal, and Rufous-sided Towhee.

12. Observations on variant plumage characteristics are presented for the Hairy Woodpecker and Slate-colored Junco.

13. Observations of possible predation are presented for the Ovenbird (snake) and Red-winged Blackbird (Common Crow).

14. Some comments are made regarding the effects of strip mining.

Acknowledgments

A very real part of the pleasure of my travels in the mountains came from the frequent helpfulness and unfailing courtesy of many persons whom I met. The assistance they offered ranged from road directions and introductions, to accounts of birds they had seen, to meals (which were invariably excellent) and places to sleep. For various favors I would especially thank Mrs. Harry Caudill, Whitesburg; Mr. and Mrs. Dock Cornett and Mr. and Mrs. Kelly Cornett, and their respective families, Skyline; Mr. Robert Fulton, Henderson Settlement; Mr. Burton Rogers, Pine Mountain Settlement School; personnel of the Federal Aviation Agency radar station at Black Mountain; and many others, most of whose names I do not know, who aided me in ways large or small.

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FORTY-SIXTH ANNUAL FALL MEETING

October 10-12, 1969

The Kentucky Ornithological Society opened its Forty-sixth Annual Fall Meeting at Owensboro on Friday, October 10, 1969. Registration was at Gabe's Motor Inn.

President Willard Gray opened the Friday evening session in the Natural History Museum Lecture Room. He welcomed members and guests. A. L. Powell, Chairman of the Owensboro Committee on Local Arrangements, explained field trips for Saturday at Carpenter's Lake, Ben Hawes Park, and the L. E. Wilson farm at Sorgho, Kentucky.

Dr. Ray Nall, Program Chairman, introduced the speakers of the evening. Dr. Clell Peterson presented a paper on "The Distribution of Cliff Swallows in Western Kentucky." Mrs. F. W. Stamm then read portions of a paper by Joseph Croft entitled "Notes from the Southeastern Mountains." Edwin Larson, a University of Louisville medical student from Murray, gave a continued account of his observations of the Common Nighthawk. Frank Abrams, Owensboro, presented slides of birds seen recently in Florida in the Myakka River State Park and in the National Audubon Society's Corkscrew Swamp. Miss Mabel Slack showed slides of Cassin's Finches and Evening Grosbeaks taken at Yosemite Park, and hummingbirds at Gothic, Colorado during the summer of 1969. Newton Belt presented colored slides of the Great Horned Owl's nest found at Chaney Lake during the Spring Meeting. The exhibit of his watercolors about the room, some made in Africa, provided an added attraction.

On Saturday morning members divided into three groups for field trips in spite of drizzle and downpour.

President Willard Gray opened the general business meeting at 3:00 p.m. Saturday, in the lecture room of the Natural History Museum. He thanked Joseph Ford, Curator, for the use of the building, and A. L. Powell and the Owensboro Chapter for their hospitality and splendid arrangements.

The president announced that at the Board Meeting it was agreed that: 1) The pre-registration blank had proven so successful it would be continued. 2) The spring meeting would be held at Bowling Green, April 17-19, and the fall meeting at Cumberland Falls, provisionally set for October 2-4, 1970.

The minutes of the Spring Meeting as printed in The Kentucky Warbler were approved.

The treasurer's report was read and accepted (copy attached).

The treasurer asked that the books be audited, and the president was to appoint an auditing committee.

The proposed amendment eliminating Corresponding Memberships, as sent with the notice of the meeting, was passed.

Mr. Brecher reported on the status of the Ohio Falls Bi-State Park Project, mentioning chiefly the following: 1) Commissioners from both states have been appointed; 2) A bill is now in Congress to legalize the bi-state compact; 3) Due to the present structure of the dam, and the consequent lack of water flow, the alarming silt and sand deposits on the rock shelf, on the Indiana side as well as the lower end of the Falls, will eventually cover the unique fossil beds and also eliminate the food supply for migrating birds. Representatives of conservation groups were to meet
the following week with officials of the Corps of Engineers to explain the problem and press for remedial measures.

Since Mr. William Ruhe, K.O.S. representative to Kentuckians for Environmental Planning, was not present, Dr. Monroe reported that of the three main projects, research on one, "Environmental Effects of Pesticides," had been completed and recommendations made. He told of the tragic effect of DDT and allied pesticides on the reproduction of birdlife and read a Resolution recommended by the Kentucky Ornithological Society Board to ban the sale and use of persistent pesticides in Kentucky. He moved the adoption by the K.O.S.; the motion was seconded and unanimously passed (copy attached). The statement was to be sent to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and members of the Legislative Research Committee.

The president of each member organization of Kentuckians for Environmental Planning receives a copy of the research data and it was moved and seconded that a copy be sent to each K.O.S. member.

The Nominating Committee, A. L. Powell, Chairman, made the following report: President, Willard Gray; Vice-President, Dr. Ray Nail; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Eugene Wilson; Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer, Evelyn J. Schneider; Councillors (two-year term), Newton Belt and Dr. Burt L. Monroe, Jr. Mr. Powell moved that these names be accepted by acclamation and the motion carried. Dr. Hunter M. Hancock and Dr. J. Hill Hamon continue another year as councillors.

Leonard Brecher asked that a note of thanks be given the present officers.

Regret was expressed over the absence of our valued honorary member, Albert Ganier.

Mrs. F. W. Stamm asked that all record cards for the Cornell University Laboratory Nesting Survey be mailed to her.

Mr. Stamm moved that since the Owensboro Chapter had handled local arrangements in such an efficient manner for every aspect of the meeting, including assistance at the Registration Desk, that the appreciation and gratitude of the K.O.S. be expressed and spread on the minutes.

The speaker at the annual dinner at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday was Mr. Edward Schell, Washington, D.C., a member of the Maryland Ornithological Society, graduate of University of Michigan, and member of the American Ornithologists' Union. Using colored slides, he related a trip to Alaska with his family, where he attended the A.O.U. meeting during the summer of 1968, visiting the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands as well.

Dr. Gordon Wilson compiled the bird list, totaling 80 species. On a warm Sunday morning, a large group went to Carpenter's Lake, ending in the Powells' yard where their hospitality was excelled only by entertainment provided by Mrs. Powell's pet duck. The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Aileen L. Hummel
Recording Secretary

RESOLUTION
Passed at the Annual Meeting of the Society
October 11, 1969

Because of the now overwhelming evidence concerning the adverse effects of the persistent pesticides, most notably DDT, on the environ-
ment, manifested in the pollution of almost all our streams and the fish therein, in the outright destruction of birds such as grebes, robins, and bluebirds, and, as a result of biological magnification, in the drastically reduced reproduction of many large birds such as pelicans, eagles, and hawks to a level where extinction in the near future is imminent; and

Because of the long-lived nature of the persistent pesticides, their resultant spread and contamination of life in the remotest parts of the world, and the difficulty if not impossibility of removal from the environment once usage is stopped; and

Because of the availability of suitable substitute pesticides of a short-lived nature;

Be it therefore resolved that the Kentucky Ornithological Society strongly urges the immediate banning of, sale, shipment, and usage of the persistent pesticides in the State of Kentucky.

* * * *

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

October 9, 1969

GENERAL FUND

Balance brought forward, October 3, 1968 .......................... $ 935.68

Receipts

Annual Membership Dues:
195 Regular Memberships @ 3.00 ......................$585.00
50 Family Membership @ 4.00 ...................... 200.00
26 Contributing Memberships @ 5.00 ....... 130.00
3 Contributing Family Memberships
@ 6.00 ........................................... 18.00
12 Corresponding Memberships @ 2.50 ....... 30.00
8 Student Memberships @ 2.00 ...................... 16.00

Total Memberships ........................................ $979.00
Interest Income, Jefferson Federal Savings & Loan Assn., on Full-paid Shares ................... 33.25
Contributions, Gordon Wilson Fund for Ornithology .................................................. 10.00
Sale of Publications ...........................................$ 72.79
Sale of Checklist Cards .................................. 13.00
Sale of Sleeve Patches .................................. 20.00
Total Sales .................................................. 105.88
Receipts, Fall Meeting, 1968 ......................... 369.00
Receipts, Spring Meeting, 1969 ..................... 255.00
Refund on Check No. 31 .................................. 1.43
Advance Reservations, Fall Meeting, 1969 ........ 198.50

Total Receipts .............................................. 1,955.06

TOTAL .................................................. $2,890.74
Disbursements

Printing Costs, *The Kentucky Warbler* ........................................ 234.19
Printing, 10,000 Checklist Cards .................................................. 96.86
Postage, including *The Kentucky Warbler* ...................................... 35.01
Supplies: 1,000 Stamped Envelopes .................................................. 68.40
500 Window Envelopes .................................................................. 2.14
2,000 Warbler Envelopes ................................................................. 17.60
Miscellaneous .................................................................................. 10.21
Total, Supplies .............................................................................. 98.35
Transfer to the Gordon Wilson Fund .................................................. 10.00
Dues, Kentuckians for Environmental Planning .................................. 35.00
Kentucky State Treasurer, for Corporation Filing Fee ......................... 2.00
Expenses, Fall Meeting, 1968 ............................................................. 419.13
Expenses, Spring Meeting, 1969 ......................................................... 231.00
Total Disbursements .................................................................. 1,761.54
Balance on Hand, First National Bank,
Louisville, Ky., October 9, 1969 ...................................................... 1,129.20
TOTAL ................................................................. $2,890.74

ENDOWMENT FUND

Balance in Savings Account, Jefferson Federal Savings
& Loan Assn., Louisville, Ky., Oct. 3, 1968 ........................................ $1,250.97
Seven Full-Paid Shares @ $100.00 ....................................................... 700.00
Total Balance in Fund, Oct. 3, 1968 .................................................. $1,950.97

Receipts

Interest on Full-Paid Shares (4¼%) .................................................. $ 33.25
Interest on Savings Account ............................................................ 60.13
Total Receipts .............................................................................. 93.38
TOTAL ................................................................. $2,044.35

Disbursements

Transfer of Interest on Full-Paid Shares to General Fund .................. $ 33.25
Total Disbursements .................................................................. 33.25
BALANCE IN FUND, Oct. 9, 1969 .................................................... 2,011.10

TOTAL ................................................................. $2,044.35

Seven Full-Paid Shares ................................................................. $ 700.00
Savings Account Balance, Oct. 3, 1968 ........................................... 1,250.97
Interest on Savings Account ............................................................ 60.13
Total Assets, Oct. 9, 1969 ............................................................... $2,011.10
THE GORDON WILSON FUND FOR ORNITHOLOGY

Balance in Savings Account, Greater Louisville
First Federal Savings and Loan Association,
Louisville, Ky., Oct. 3, 1968 $ 979.82

Receipts
Contributions $ 10.00
Interest on Savings Account 47.27
Total Receipts 57.27

TOTAL $1,037.09

Disbursements
None

Balance in Fund, Oct. 9, 1969 $1,037.09
Principal Fund $ 708.00
Accumulated Interest 329.09
Total $1,037.09

BALANCE SHEET
October 9, 1969

Assets:
Cash in General Fund, First National Bank, Louisville, Ky. $1,129.20
Endowment Fund, Jefferson Federal Savings and Loan Assn.,
Louisville, Ky. 2,011.10
Gordon Wilson Fund for Ornithology, Greater Louisville First
Federal Savings & Loan Assn., Louisville, Ky. 1,037.09

TOTAL ASSETS $4,177.39

MEMBERS AND GUESTS ATTENDING THE MEETING

BLANDVILLE: Newton O. Belt.

BOWLING GREEN: Mrs. Harry W. Bowman, Dr. Herbert E. Shadowen,
Mrs. F. Eugene Wilson, Dr. Gordon Wilson, Sr.

CARLISLE: Willard N. Gray.

FRANKFORT: James Durell, Dr. J. Hill Hamon.

GLASGOW: Mrs. James E. Gillenwater, Miss Emily Gillenwater, David
Uzman, Dr. and Mrs. Russell Starr.

GOLDEN POND: Dr. Raymond W. Nall.

HENDERSON: Mr. and Mrs. Ila D. Gatlin, Jr., W. P. Rhoads.
LEXINGTON: Mrs. G. L. Burns, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred M. Reece, Jr.

LOUISVILLE: Janet Borders, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Brecher, Mrs. Alex Chamberlain, Joseph Croft, Mrs. H. H. Hummel, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Jackson, Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth McConnell, Dr. Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Miss Dorothy Pell, J. William Ruhe, Evelyn Schneider, Mabel Slack, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Mr. and Mrs. Chester Sundquist, Mr. and Mrs. Guy B. Wood.

MACEO: Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Powell, Jr.

MADISONVILLE: Mr. and Mrs. James W. Hancock.

MURRAY: Dr. Evelyn Cole, Dr. and Mrs. Hunter M. Hancock, Dr. and Mrs. C. Wesley Kemper, Dr. Clell T. Peterson.

NICHOLASVILLE: Mrs. Woodrow Feck.

OWENSBORO: Mr. and Mrs. Frank Abrams, Jr., Mrs. Charles E. Chambers, Sister Casimir Czurles, Mr. and Mrs. William Elliott, Minnie L. Holland, Mr. and Mrs. Ramon R. Iles, Mary Lydia Greenwell, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond S. Kramer, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Thacker, Sr., Ralph Thacker, Jr., Tracy Thacker, John Thacker, Mr. and Mrs. L. Marvin Ray, Lewis Marvin Ray, George Ray, Wynema Sims, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Whalen, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph M. Ford.

RICHMOND: Mrs. Alvin McGlasson, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Whitt, Jr.

EVANSVILLE, INDIANA: Mrs. Marvin L. Pitt.

DYERSBURG, TENNESSEE: Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Leggett.

WHITE PIGEON, MICHIGAN: Oscar McKinley Bryens.


ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA: John Chandler.

* * * *

FIELD NOTES

LATE DATE FOR PINE SISKIN

On the afternoon of May 24, 1969, I saw a flock of 20-30 Pine Siskins (*Spinus pinus*), east of Berea, Madison County, Kentucky. The birds were in the top of a pine tree at the site of the Kentucky Arts and Crafts Festival, where they remained for at least an hour. My attention was drawn to them by their characteristic call. R. M. Mengel in his *Birds of Kentucky* (1965) listed May 14 as the latest date of observation for this species in Kentucky.—WAYNE H. DAVIS, Department of Zoology, University of Kentucky, Lexington 40506.

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NEWS AND VIEWS

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Fall Meeting of KOS is recent history and already our thoughts turn to the Spring Meeting. We will need papers and/or slides for our Friday evening session. If you have or know of someone who has such material which could be presented, would you please contact me, Mrs. F. W. Stamm, or Dr. Ray Nall. Friday evening programs of recent years have been highly complimented and we want to maintain the caliber of these programs. Let’s continue to share our ornithological findings and contributions.

I look forward to another fine Spring Meeting at Bowling Green. See you there April 17-19, 1970.—WILLARD GRAY

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TO KEEP BIRDS SAFE IN WINTER

If you have been in the habit of adding glycerine to water during the winter months to keep your bird bath unfrozen, it would be wise to discontinue this practice. This advice comes from Mrs. Walter R. Spofford, research associate at Cornell University’s Laboratory of Ornithology.

According to Mrs. Spofford, “The feathers of birds are remarkably adapted for forming an insulating layer. The barbs of birds feathers interlock and in winter the feathers are fluffed out, trapping warm air against the body. Anything added to the water—especially something oily like glycerine—makes it impossible for the feathers to function normally. As soon as the bird is exposed to extreme cold or heavy snow or rain, he will freeze.”

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IN MEMORIAM

Eugene Simpson
Sally Schell Ruhe