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## Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 47, no. 3)

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# The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

Vol. 47

AUGUST, 1971

No. 3



PURPLE GALLINULE

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### OUR COVER

The cover picture is a reproduction of Karl Maslowski's interesting photograph of the Purple Gallinule (*Porphyryla martinica*) taken in mid-May 1971, at Crosley Lake, slightly east of Cincinnati, Ohio.

This colorful bird, a rarity in Kentucky, is also a very rare migrant in the Cincinnati area.

Elsewhere in this issue James W. Hancock writes of seeing this species at Goose Pond, in western Kentucky.

## STAPHYLOCOCCUS AUREUS ISOLATED FROM THE INTESTINAL TRACT OF STARLINGS

D. R. WITTY AND L. P. ELLIOTT

As a result of the large number of Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) in the United States, this bird has been a source of controversy among farmers, ornithologists, the general public, and public health officials. There are many reports of micro-organisms which are carried by the Starling. *Mycobacterium avium* was found by Beckford (1966) to be spread from poultry to swine by the Starling. Other organisms that the Starling has been reported to carry are *Histoplasma capsulatum* (Murdock *et al.*, 1962), *Salmonella typhimurium* (Hudson and Tudor, 1957) and *Plasmodium hexamerium* (Janovy, 1966). In view of the wide migratory and feeding habits of these ubiquitous birds, the possibility that they may serve as vectors for the dissemination of other pathogenic bacteria in nature such as *Staphylococcus aureus* warranted further investigation.

### Materials and Methods

This study extended over a period of one and a half years, and 226 Starlings were sacrificed. Dr. H. E. Shadowen (1969) has reported on the diet of these Starlings. Twenty-six of the Starlings were unsuitable for microbiological analysis. As soon as possible after death the birds were brought to the laboratory for testing. Feathers were plucked away from the abdominal region, exposing a region from the sternum to the anus. This area was swabbed with iodine. Horizontal and vertical incisions were made below the tip of the sternum and the entire intestinal tract was removed and swabbed with iodine. A loopful of fecal material was removed from an incision in the lower inch of the intestinal tract and transferred to one ml. of saline solution. This procedure was followed for each of the birds tested. The tubes of saline were vigorously mixed, and a loopful of the contents from each tube was streaked on Mannitol Salt Agar (MSA) (Difco), a selective medium for staphylococci, and incubated at 37 C for 24 hours. Later in the study, two other selective media for staphylococci, a tellurite (Baird-Parker, 1962) and selenite (Elliott, 1968) egg yolk media, were compared with mannitol salt agar in ability to select for staphylococci.

The catalase-positive gram-positive cocci were identified according to the principles and methods reported by Cowan and Steel (1964). Staphylococcal colonies were transferred to Brain Heart Infusion (Difco) agar slants and stored as stocks to be used in further testing. The cultures of *S. aureus* were sent to the Kentucky Department of Health to be phage typed.

In the above study *S. aureus* was isolated. Therefore, experiments were designed to determine the survival time of *S. aureus* in the Starlings, fecal material after excretion and the length of time required for passage of the organisms through the intestinal tract. Starlings were captured and caged in the laboratory environment until it was found that the birds were free of staphylococci. The birds were then fed 1 ml. of *S. aureus*

which contained approximately 26,000 organisms. This strain was isolated from the intestinal contents of a Starling. The fecal material was collected as soon after excretion as possible and streaked on MSA for isolation, incubated at 37 C for 24 hours and if typical colony forms of staphylococci were noted, the coagulase test was performed on the isolates. This was continued until *S. aureus* was no longer isolated. In each of the 10 tests the passage time was recorded. Also fecal material positive for *S. aureus* was placed on filter paper. Five filters were placed in each selected environment during December, January, February, April, June and July to determine survival time of staphylococci in the fecal material.

### Results and Discussion

Of the 200 Starlings collected and tested, 89 Starlings or 44.5% carried isolates identified as being in the family Micrococcaceae. Forty-five of these isolates or 49.4% were identified as staphylococci. Thirty-three proved to be *S. epidermidis* and 12 were *S. aureus*. Of these 12, only one phage typed using the Blair-Williams (1961) series and it was found to be 6/7/47/54/75 which is Group III. *S. aureus* lysed and destroyed by phages of Group III are by far the most common in food intoxication. It is quite possible more of the *S. aureus* would have phage typed if phages other than the International series were used which are specifically for typing so-called human strains of *S. aureus* (Oeding *et al.*, 1970). Due to the unequal number of birds killed in various seasons it would be inaccurate to state definitely that birds killed during a particular time of the year would more often be carriers of the virulent *S. aureus* than birds collected during other periods. However, in this study more birds were found to carry coagulase-positive staphylococci during early spring, particularly March, than any other time of the year. No correlation was found between a particular foodstuff present in the stomach and the bird harboring *S. aureus*. From all birds that contained *S. aureus* Shadowen (1969) found beetles, but many birds negative for *S. aureus* had also ingested beetles. *S. epidermidis* is often thought of as being saprophytic although it is well established that the organism can be pathogenic (Brown *et al.*, 1967).

In evaluating the media for recovery of *S. aureus* from Starling fecal material no media had a significant advantage over the other; however, in using three selective media in a few cases isolates were found that would have been missed had only one media been used.

The passage time of *S. aureus* through the intestinal tract of the Starling ranged from 45 minutes to 4 hours. Seemingly, the longer the bird was in captivity the shorter was the passage time, presumably due to the bird changing from natural feeding material to laboratory feed. The Starling continued to excrete the staphylococci up to 36 hours after ingestion. This is significant in that the birds may travel 50 miles from their roosting site in search of food. This also suggested that the organism does not multiply in the tract of the Starling. The incidence figure of 6% of Starlings carrying *S. aureus* may be low because the Starling sampled may have completely excreted its *S. aureus*.

Survival times of *S. aureus* in Starling fecal material were quite variable depending upon the season of the year and the environment in which the filters were placed. The longest survival time was 17 days in

July when the filter was placed in a moist shaded area. The temperature range during this month was 69-95 F. The longest survival time recorded in direct sunlight was 6 days in December, which had a temperature fluctuation from 30-51 F. The ability of *S. aureus* to survive in fecal material in the environment adds to the problem of transmission since the organisms have ample time to be transferred to another suitable host. Iwasawa and Ishihara (1967) indicated that the survival of *S. aureus* in an environment is influenced by physical factors such as desiccation, dry heat, wet heat, and ultraviolet irradiation.

### Summary

The results indicated that Starlings can harbor *S. aureus* in their intestinal tracts and thus act as vectors in transmission of the organism. *S. aureus* survived in deposited fecal material which makes conditions possible for contamination of man and animals.

### Acknowledgment

The authors acknowledge Dr. Herbert E. Shadowen for his assistance during this study.

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—Department of Biology, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Ky. 42101.

## BIG SPRING LISTS

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES (Area essentially the same as for Christmas counts—most of the LBL north of US 68, including Kentucky Dam).—May 8; 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Cloudy, clearing; no wind; temp. 55° to 85°. Total, 100 species. Ten additional species observed on following day, May 9, by Gray.

The most interesting finds on our spring count were the shorebirds. A good marshy area is developing in the Ferguson Springs area, and here we found the Solitary Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Sora, and Virginia Rail. The Semipalmated Plovers were found on Duncan Range where I had never before found shorebirds. Generally, the migration seemed especially good, with concentrations of warblers passing through.—Willard Gray, Clell Peterson (compiler).

\* \* \* \*

HENDERSON (City and suburban area of Henderson, including Audubon State Park).—May 2; partly cloudy; wind WNW, 10-15 m.p.h.; temp. 48° to 60°. Total, 117 species.—W. P. Rhoads (compiler).

\* \* \* \*

MADISONVILLE (W. W. Hancock farm, Elk Creek, Brazzle Bridge, Brown Road, Highway 892, and four lakes at Madisonville and Earlington).—May 6; 6:15 a.m. to 8:15 p.m., and 10:00 p.m. Cloudy, brief showers in afternoon; light to strong SW wind, subsiding somewhat in p.m.; temp. 58° to 79°. Total, 105 species. The best spring list I have made in many years, mainly because of the large number of waterfowl at this late date.

Other species recorded near the time of the count: Gray-checked Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Blackburnian Warbler and Louisiana Water-

thrush. Also, at Goose Pond, western Hopkins County, the following species were seen on May 7: Great Blue Heron, Little Blue Heron, Sora, Purple Gallinule (see note elsewhere in this issue), Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Belted Kingfisher, and Yellow-billed Cuckoo.—James W. Hancock.

\* \* \* \*

MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK— May 1, 5:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; May 2, 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. The count was made by an undetermined number of members of the Kentucky Ornithological Society and the Tennessee Ornithological Society. A total of 126 species was recorded in the park during the two-day period—25 more species than seen on any of the previous 15 spring counts. On May 3 and 4, 1958, 101 species were reported by nine observers, and on May 4, 1969, 100 species were reported by 12 observers following a one-day count.

Eleven species on this year's compilation had not been recorded on previous spring counts at Mammoth Cave National Park. They included the Least Bittern, Blue-winged Teal, Marsh Hawk, Sora, Killdeer, Common Snipe, Solitary Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs, Tree Swallow, Cliff Swallow, and Savannah Sparrow. The following birds had been seen on only one prior count: Horned Lark, Loggerhead Shrike, Grasshopper Sparrow, and Vesper Sparrow. Some of the birds listed above have been observed in the park during the spring of previous years but not on the day of the count.—Herbert E. Shadown (compiler).

\* \* \* \*

LOUISVILLE (Louisville and its environs, including the Ohio River, Iroquois Park, Jeffersontown, Crestwood, Westport, Goshen, and southern Clark County, Indiana).—May 9; 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; clear to partly cloudy; temp. 42° to 69°. Total, 158 species. Spring migration again late, evidenced by low count of Magnolia, Blackpoll, Bay-breasted, and Blackburnian Warblers, and lack of Golden-winged and Canada Warblers. Waterbird count very good, due in part to heavy recent rains and stage of rising river. Only exceptionally rare bird was noted the day before the count, a breeding plumage Laughing Gull in the harbor at Louisville and on the Falls of the Ohio (Monroe). Seen during week but not on count day: Great Blue Heron, Laughing Gull, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Hermit Thrush, Worm-eating Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Blue Grosbeak, Slate-colored Junco.—Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Anderson, Leonard C. Brecher, Mrs. A. H. Calvert, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Jackson, Dennis Holding, Burt L. Monroe, Jr., (compiler), Mrs. H. V. Noland, Jim Pasikowski, Mrs. Charles Robertson, Evelyn Schneider, Mr. and Mrs. F. P. Shannon, Mrs. Eugene Short, Mabel Slack, Lawrence Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick W. Stamm, Mrs. A. C. Susie, Mrs. Wm. B. Tabler, Mr. and Mrs. Guy Wood.

\* \* \* \*



## BIG SPRING LISTS, 1971

Species recorded near the time of the count but not on count day are indicated with an asterisk (\*); LBL—Land Between the Lakes, H—Henderson, M—Madisonville, MC—Mammoth Cave, L—Louisville.

- Common Loon—LBL, M  
 Pied-billed Grebe—LBL, H, M, L  
 Great Blue Heron—LBL, H, M\*, L\*  
 Green Heron—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Little Blue Heron—M\*, MC  
 Common Egret—L  
 Black-cr. Night Heron—H, L  
 Least Bittern—M, MC  
 American Bittern—L  
 Canada Goose—LBL, L  
 Mallard—H, L  
 Black Duck—L  
 Blue-winged Teal—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Am. Widgeon—L  
 Shoveler—M, L  
 Wood Duck—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Redhead—L  
 Ring-n. Duck—M  
 Lesser Scaup—M, L  
 Ruddy Duck—M  
 Red-br. Merganser—L  
 Turkey Vulture—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Black Vulture—H, MC, L  
 Cooper's Hawk—LBL, H, MC, L  
 Red-tailed Hawk—LBL, H, MC, L  
 Red-sh. Hawk—MC, L  
 Broad-w. Hawk—MC, L  
 Marsh Hawk—MC, L  
 Sparrow Hawk—H, M, MC, L  
 Bobwhite—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Virginia Rail—LBL, L  
 Sora—LBL, M\*, MC, L  
 Purple Gallinule—M\*  
 Common Gallinule—L  
 Am. Coot—LBL, H, M, L  
 Semipal. Plover—LBL  
 Killdeer—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 American Woodcock—MC  
 Common Snipe—L, MC  
 Spotted Sandpiper—LBL, M, MC, L  
 Solitary Sandpiper—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Greater Yellowlegs—H, M\*  
 Lesser Yellowlegs—LBL, M, MC, L  
 Pectoral Sandpiper—L  
 Least Sandpiper—LBL, M\*, L  
 Semip. Sandpiper—H, M\*  
 Herring Gull—LBL, L  
 Ring-b. Gull—LBL, M, L  
 Laughing Gull—L\*  
 Bonaparte's Gull—LBL, L  
 Common Tern—H, M  
 Black Tern—M  
 Mourning Dove—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Yellow-b. Cuckoo—LBL, M\*, MC, L  
 Black-b. Cuckoo—LBL, MC, L  
 Screech Owl—H, L  
 Great Horned Owl—LBL, H, L  
 Barred Owl—H, MC, L  
 Chuck-will's-widow—M, L  
 Whip-poor-will—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Common Nighthawk—LBL\*, H, M, L  
 Chimney Swift—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Ruby-thr. Hummingbird—LBL\*, H, MC, L  
 Belted Kingfisher—H, M\*, MC, L  
 Yellow-sh. Flicker—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Pileated Woodpecker—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Red-b. Woodpecker—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Red-h. Woodpecker—LBL, H, M, L  
 Yellow-b. Sapsucker—LBL, H, L  
 Hairy Woodpecker—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Downy Woodpecker—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 E. Kingbird—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Gr. Cr. Flycatcher—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 E. Phoebe—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Yellow-b. Flycatcher—H  
 Acadian Flycatcher—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Traill's Flycatcher—H, L  
 Least Flycatcher—H, M, L  
 E. Wood Pewee—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Olive-s. Flycatcher—L\*  
 Horned Lark—LBL\*, H, M, MC, L  
 Tree Swallow—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Bank Swallow—L  
 Rough-w. Swallow—LBL, M, MC, L  
 Barn Swallow—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Cliff Swallow—LBL, MC, L  
 Purple Martin—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Blue Jay—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Common Crow—LBL, H, M, MC, L

- Car. Chickadee—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Tufted Titmouse—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 White-br. Nuthatch—LBL, H, M, MC,  
 L  
 Brown Creeper—L  
 House Wren—H, M, L  
 Bewick's Wren—M, L  
 Carolina Wren—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Long-b. Marsh Wren—LBL  
 Mockingbird—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Catbird—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Brown Thrasher—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Robin—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Wood Thrush—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Hermit Thrush—H, L\*  
 Swainson's Thrush—LBL, H, M, MC,  
 L  
 Gray-c. Thrush—LBL\*, H, M\*, L  
 Veery—LBL\*, H, MC, L  
 E. Bluebird—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Blue-g. Gnatcatcher—LBL, H, M, MC,  
 L  
 Ruby-cr. Kinglet—H, M, MC, L  
 Cedar Waxwing—M\*, MC, L  
 Loggerhead Shrike—H, M, MC, L  
 Starling—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 White-eyed Vireo—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Yellow-thr. Vireo—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Solitary Vireo—MC, L  
 Red-eyed Vireo—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Philadelphia Vireo—H, MC, L  
 Warbling Vireo—H, M, MC, L  
 Black-and-white Warbler—H, M, MC,  
 L  
 Prothon. Warbler—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Swainson's Warbler—LBL, H  
 Worm-eating Warbler—LBL, H, MC,  
 L\*  
 Golden-w. Warbler—MC, L\*  
 Blue-w. Warbler—LBL, MC, L  
 Tennessee Warbler—LBL, H, M, MC,  
 L  
 Orange-cr. Warbler—H, L  
 Nashville Warbler—LBL, M, MC, L  
 Parula Warbler—LBL, H, MC, L  
 Yellow Warbler—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Magnolia Warbler—LBL\*, H, M, L  
 Cape May Warbler—H, MC, L  
 Black-thr. Blue Warbler—MC  
 Myrtle Warbler—LBL\*, H, M, MC, L  
 Blk.-thr. Green Warbler—M, L  
 Cerulean Warbler—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Blackburnian Warbler—M\*, MC, L  
 Yellow-thr. Warbler—LBL\*, H, M, MC,  
 L  
 Chestnut-s. Warbler—LBL, H, M, MC,  
 L  
 Bay-br. Warbler—H, MC, L  
 Blackpoll Warbler—M, MC, L  
 Pine Warbler—H, MC, L  
 Prairie Warbler—LBL, M, MC, L  
 Palm Warbler—H, M, MC, L  
 Ovenbird—MC, L  
 Northern Waterthrush—LBL, M, MC,  
 L  
 Louisiana Waterthrush—LBL, H, M\*,  
 MC, L  
 Kentucky Warbler—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Conn. Warbler—L  
 Mourning Warbler—L  
 Yellowthroat—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Yellow-br. Chat—LBL, M, MC, L  
 Hooded Warbler—MC, L  
 Wilson's Warbler—LBL, L  
 Am. Redstart—LBL, MC, L  
 House Sparrow—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Bobolink—M, L  
 E. Meadowlark—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Red-w. Blackbird—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Orchard Oriole—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Baltimore Oriole—LBL\*, H, M, MC, L  
 Common Grackle—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Brown-h. Cowbird—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Scarlet Tanager—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Summer Tanager—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Cardinal—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Rose-br. Grosbeak—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Blue Grosbeak—MC, L\*  
 Indigo Bunting—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Dickcissel—H, M, MC, L  
 Purple Finch—H, MC, L  
 Am. Goldfinch—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Rufous-s. Towhee—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Savannah Sparrow—LBL, MC, L  
 Grasshopper Sparrow—H, MC, L  
 Slate-col. Junco—H; MC, L\*  
 Chipping Sparrow—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 Field Sparrow—LBL, H, M, MC, L  
 White-cr. Sparrow—LBL\*, H, M, MC,  
 L  
 White-thr. Sparrow—LBL, H, M, MC,  
 L  
 Lincoln's Sparrow—L  
 Swamp Sparrow—LBL, M, MC, L  
 Song Sparrow—H, M, MC, L

## COMMENTS ON THE 1971 ONE-DAY BALD EAGLE COUNT

COMPILED BY ANNE L. STAMM

February 20, 1971, marked the Kentucky Ornithological Society's 11th consecutive year of participation in the One-Day Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) Count taken in cooperation with the Mississippi Valley Bald Eagle Survey. We had good coverage—14 areas ranging from the Tennessee line in Fulton County to Lake Cumberland in Russell County.

The weather was relatively mild, with temperatures ranging from 35° to 55°. Skies varied from clear to cloudy; some areas had virtually no wind while others reported winds from the northeast up to 15 m.p.h. Observations were made on foot, by car, and by boat. A few biologists and conservation officers from the Kentucky Fish & Wildlife Resources assisted the KOS members.

This year's count was the highest to date—71 Bald Eagles: 28 adults and 43 immatures. Two Golden Eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) were also sighted at Land Between the Lakes. See table below for breakdown by territories.

Location	Adults	Immatures	Total
Mississippi River bordering Kentucky .....	2	0	2
Land Between the Lakes (Western Kentucky) .....	11	29	40
Ballard Waterfowl Management Area (Ballard Co.) .....	2	2	4
Henderson (downstream) .....	6	1	7
Ohio River (Rockport Ferry Landing—Davies Co.) .....	0	0	0
Lake Pewee and Pleasant View Lake (Madisonville) .....	0	0	0
Dam #50 (Crittenden County) .....	4	1	5
Barren River Reservoir .....	0	0	0
Dam #44 (Meade County) .....	1	1	2
Ohio River—Otter Creek .....	0	6	6
West Point—Salt River (Hardin County) .....	1	2	3
Westport (Oldham County) .....	0	0	0
Lake Cumberland (Russell County) .....	1	1	2
Dale Hollow Lake (Cumberland County) .....	0	0	0
	28	43	71

Clell Peterson, compiler for the LBL count, commented that the Bald Eagles in his area "appear to be stable in respect to numbers. Otherwise, eagles are increasingly scattered and more wary." He further stated "I feel this is the direct result of the increased traffic, much of it designed to see eagles. Another factor may be the hunting in the area. Some kind of hunting goes on practically all fall, winter, and spring, and eagles that live very long learn to be wary." Other participants assisting Dr. Peterson included the following: Jerry Allen, John Charron, J. M. Hancock, Robert Head, Dave Hildreth, Robert Howes, Scott Seibert, Robert Smith, and Paul Sturm.

J. B. Andre and Kenneth Webb, students at Murray State University, drove 108 miles from the Tennessee line to near Wickliffe. They reported seeing two adult Bald Eagles at the same time.

James Moynahan, Refuge Manager at Ballard Waterfowl Management Area, reported two adult Bald Eagles sighted at 10:00 a.m., and two immature birds at 10:32 a.m.

Robert Bolds, assisted by Hal Wolford, Gene Cambron, and Robert Kerr, reported three adult eagles opposite Caseyville, two adults and one immature along Tradewater River, and one adult just below Shawneetown Bridge.

Albert and Mildred Powell spent over four hours driving 26.6 miles

while checking the Ohio River bottoms from Ferry Landing to the mouth of Blackford Creek, without seeing eagles.

Although James W. Hancock had seen an adult Bald Eagle on December 27, 1970, at Pleasant View Lake, he could not find one on the February census date at either Lake Pewee or Pleasant View.

Jim Frazer noted four mature Bald Eagles and one immature bird leaving a roost at 6:45 a.m., near Dam #50. His father, C. L. Frazer, wrote that "It seems to me that birds seen in the late afternoon at the same location as observed in the early morning are very apt to be the same ones."

Dr. Russell Starr spent the day on the Allen County side of the Barren River Reservoir while Mr. and Mrs. James Gillenwater covered the Barren County ramps, without seeing eagles. However, Dr. Starr wrote that "several observers including the engineers at the dam have reported Bald Eagles at various Barren River areas this fall (1970)." Also, Dr. Robert Pace reported two mature Bald Eagles on March 20, 1971, west of the Barren River Peninsula Boat Ramp.

The area including Dam #44 and Flint Island on the Ohio River downstream, which in former years has been covered by Louis Pieper and the late Floyd Carpenter, was checked by Lawrence Smith and Alan Shadburne. They spotted two Bald Eagles: one adult and an immature at 3:10 p.m. and 3:25 p.m., respectively. The birds were seen over Flint Island, and viewed from the Indiana side, near Leavenworth.

Along the Ohio River, south of the mouth of Otter Creek in Meade County, Frederick W. and Anne Stamm spent eight hours (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) checking the river bluffs. They were joined for part of the time by Dr. and Mrs. Forest Mackler, and Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Jackson. The first Bald Eagle, sighted at 9:30 a.m., was an immature bird, flying downstream. Another bird, also an immature, was seen at 10:05 a.m. A total of six immatures were counted along this stretch of the river. This year's count was the highest we have ever recorded.

At West Point and the Salt River, the Jacksons saw one adult Bald Eagle and two immatures. Apparent duplications were eliminated with those seen below the mouth of Otter Creek since sightings were reported by time and flight directions.

Jim Pasikowski spent six hours searching along the bluffs of the Ohio River north of Louisville to Westport. Mrs. A. C. Calvert and Mrs. C. A. Robertson joined him for two and three hours, respectively. No eagles were seen.

At Wolf Creek Dam, Dennis Coskren, Robert Morris, and Dan Morris found one mature and one immature Bald Eagle at 10:00 a.m. Other areas nearby were also checked, but without results.

No eagles were spotted at the Dale Hollow Reservoir, by Charles Guthrie and Paul McCoy, although three Bald Eagles (2 adults, 2 immatures) were observed there at Frogue Peninsula on November 8, 1970, by Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Moore. They were reported to the editor by Dr. Russell Starr.

The editor, who has been coordinating these counts in Kentucky, wishes to thank all participants. Efforts on the part of KOS members have enabled us to understand more fully the number of Bald Eagles we have in the state, particularly in mid-February, as well as the number in various localities. Also, we have contributed to the over-all study of Bald Eagles in the Mississippi Valley Survey.

The regional survey, which covered most of the Mississippi River from its source to below St. Louis, as well as most of the Illinois River and the state of Kentucky, produced 801 Bald Eagles: 564 adults, 225 immatures, and 12 not aged, according to Elton Fawks, Chairman of the Survey. He reported that "slightly under 500 people" took part in the one-day count, February 20 or 21, 1971.

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## FIELD NOTES

### PURPLE GALLINULE IN HOPKINS COUNTY

On May 7, 1971, Joe Tom Erwin, of Murray, and I made an early morning visit to Goose Pond, a marsh of approximately 50 acres which lies about two miles south of Providence, Kentucky, but is on the Hopkins County side. This marshy area is bordered by a more extensive swamp and through all of which, both marsh and swamp, flow the waters of Weirs Creek. The marsh itself is mainly of black willow, buttonbush, rose mallow, and spatterdock, with small areas of open water.

A neighboring farmer has constructed a long levee along the edge of the marsh in order to keep mine acid from the creek off his field. He attempts to keep this field drained, but frequently heavy rains cause the formation of a temporary pond which attracts herons, shorebirds, and other water birds. During a walk along the levee, we can see marsh birds below, and those out in the marsh.

We turned off to explore a short side road, bordered by an arm of the marsh and some deciduous trees. As we returned, Mr. Erwin spied a strange bird as it flew up and perched near the top of a willow.

We paused and very cautiously studied it for several minutes. We saw the bright red bill, the purple underparts, greenish back, and finally, the white frontal shield, which seemed to slope down the head somewhat, just above the nostrils. (Peterson describes this shield as "light blue" while Robbins, Brunn and Zim—*Birds of North America*, 1966—describe it as "white".)

We decided the bird was definitely a Purple Gallinule (*Porphyryla martinica*) which Robert Mengel (*The Birds of Kentucky*, page 516, 1965) lists only in the hypothetical portion of his book. The occurrence of this species in Kentucky has since been documented with a specimen collected near Louisville in Caperton's Swamp on May 8, 1967, by Kenneth P. Able (*Ky. Warbler*, 44:55, 1968).

Other species of birds recorded on this date at Goose Pond included: Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Great Blue Heron, 1; Little Blue Heron, 1 (adult); Green Heron, 3; Least Bittern, 3; Blue-winged Teal, 12; Wood Duck, 2; Sora, 2; American Coot, 33; Spotted Sandpiper, 1; Solitary Sandpiper, 1; Greater Yellowlegs, 2; Lesser Yellowlegs, 25; Least Sandpiper, 15; Semipalmated Sandpiper, 1; Black Tern, 2.—JAMES W. HANCOCK, Route 1, Madisonville 42431.

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### SAW-WHET OWL IN NICHOLAS COUNTY

On Nov. 19, 1970, at about 8:00 p.m., while returning from a house call on a rural road in Nicholas County, Kentucky, my wife and I noted what appeared to be a small owl standing in the road. It was immobilized in the glare of my headlights, and remained stationary as we got out and approached it closely, allowing its positive identification as an adult Saw-whet Owl (*Aegolius acadicus*). Though appearing fearless, after a few moments it tired of our company and flew a few yards to alight about six feet up on a small tree-trunk beside the road, still within the headlight beam, and again it permitted my approach to within two or three feet of it, remaining several minutes before it flew on into the darkness. This observation occurred about five miles west of Carlisle and is the only sighting of this species we have yet made. I might add that it has sparked a new interest in the night-time house-call!—W. R. KINGSOLVER, RFD #2, Carlisle 40311.

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### SAVANNAH SPARROWS BREEDING IN OLDHAM COUNTY

On June 28, 1969, while birding in southwestern Oldham County, we stopped to check a grassy field where we heard the buzzing, insect-like songs of both the Savannah (*Passerculus sandwichensis*) and Grasshopper Sparrows (*Ammodramus savannarum*). We saw and heard at least six of the former species in the upland field. A pond was at some distance but easily seen from the meadow. We noticed a bird fly to the top of a weed stalk and sing; it was a Savannah Sparrow. We assumed this species was nesting there, but could not locate a nest. As we left the area to look at a field of much taller grasses that bordered the grassy field, we were attracted by a young bird balancing itself on the lowest rung of the wire fence that separated the fields. Shortly thereafter, an adult Savannah Sparrow came to feed the fledgling, which obviously had been out of the nest but a short time. The young bird's plumage resembled that of the adult except that it seemed much buffier or yellowish. Undoubtedly, others of this species had nests there, too, but we did not investigate further.

It is quite possible that the Grasshopper Sparrows were nesting nearby, judging from their territorial activities. Although the senior author has found nests of this species in 1948, 1949, and 1950 in Jefferson County (*Ky. Warbler*, 31:52-54, 1955), she did not find Savannah Sparrows associating with them. Apparently here in Oldham County both species found conditions suitable to their nesting requirements in the same fields.

We believe this record worthy to note since we have found no mention of actual breeding of the Savannah Sparrow in the ornithological literature of Kentucky.—ANNE L. STAMM, 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40222; DOROTHEA McCONNELL, 705 Victoria Place, Louisville 40207.

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### SOME NOTES FROM SOUTH-CENTRAL KENTUCKY

On May 5, 1971, Mrs. Starr cleaned out an already used Eastern Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) box, located on a fence post in the Brigadoon Farm yard. Within a short time, perhaps 10 minutes, we noticed a busy little

brown bird transporting dried grass and tiny twigs into the box. We observed her, and her mate, who was singing nearby in a hackberry tree, until dark. The birds were House Wrens (*Troglodytes aedon*), my first Barren County record. We did not return again until May 12, when we found the nest torn out and on the ground. Since then, however, we have heard the House Wren singing in the area—usually near the barn—but have found no more nests. Some years ago I saw the House Wren in the Bowling Green area, with Gordon Wilson. On June 9, 1971, while taking our Breeding Bird Census, I heard it again near the Edmonson County-Warren County line.

The Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) continues to be a summer resident of eastern and southern Glasgow, along the area bordering the South Fork of Beaver Creek, which meanders through the town. It probably has been here for ages; I have not been able to search out the rural extremities of the stream to determine its presence.

James Hiser, who lives in Metcalfe County, near the hamlet of Center, reports to me that on November 5, 1970, he saw four Sandhill Cranes (*Grus canadensis*) flying in a southeasterly direction across his farm. It is on Mr. Hiser's farm that the Virginia Rail (*Rallus limicola*) is seen each fall (*Ky. Warbler*, 43:37-38, 1967).—RUSSELL STARR, Route 7, Glasgow 42141.

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## NEWS AND VIEWS

### THREE NEW LIFE MEMBERS

It is with pleasure that we welcome three new Life Members: Charles Horner, Louisville; Allie Louis Whitt, Jr., Richmond; and Ray Harm, Chenoa.

Mr. Horner, a retired business executive, shares his wife's interest in ornithology. He has spent many hours on the 200-acre Horner Wildlife Sanctuary, two miles southwest of Brownsboro, operated by the University of Louisville biology and geology departments. The land was purchased in 1960 and given to the University by Mr. and Mrs. Horner. He enjoys summers at his home in Nantucket.

Mr. Whitt, who is professor of biology at Eastern State University, says that he has been interested in birds as far back as he can remember. However, his real interest began about 20 years ago when he started to teach ornithology:

Mr. Harm, a naturalist and wildlife artist, is a native of West Virginia, but has lived in Kentucky for some ten years. He now lives in the mountains of eastern Kentucky at Chenoa, and although his schedule is a heavy one, he finds some time to get out-of-doors to enjoy the birds of his adopted state. He has been generous with sending reproductions of some of his paintings for use in *The Kentucky Warbler*.

\* \* \* \*

### FALL MEETING

Plan now to participate in the forty-eighth annual meeting to be held at Kentucky Dam Village State Park, October 8-10, 1971. Fall colors should be at their best, and the fall migration in full swing.

\* \* \* \*

### DR. H. V. NOLAND DIES

Dr. Hulbert V. Noland, Louisville, a practicing internist and clinical professor of medicine at the University of Louisville School of Medicine, died on April 25, 1971. He had been a KOS member since 1959, and attended some of the state meetings. When the KOS met at Falls of Rough in 1967, Dr. Noland graciously offered his nearby farm for field trips. Dr. and Mrs. Noland participated in ornithological trips to Africa, Norway, and the Galapagos Islands.

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### NEST RECORD CARDS

KOS members are asked to send completed nest-record cards, preferably in duplicate, to their regional coordinators, or to the editor. The Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, is currently engaged in a study of the geographical variation of the clutch-size of the Robin, Barn Swallow, and the Eastern Phoebe and is anxious to receive nesting information on these species as soon as possible.

## KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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### Libraries, Colleges, Clubs, Etc.

- The Library, American Museum of Natural History, Central Park West  
 at 79th St., New York, N.Y. 10024  
 Beechmont Garden Club, c/o Iroquois Library, 6th and Woodlawn, Louis-  
 ville, Ky. 40214  
 Woodward Library, Serials Dept., Univ. of British Columbia, Vancouver 8,  
 Canada  
 Science Library, E-25-13 Young Hall, c/o Grace Doherty Library, Centre  
 College, Danville, Ky. 40422  
 Colorado State University Libraries, Serials Unit, Ft. Collins, Col. 80521  
 Acquisitions Division, Albert R. Mann Library, Cornell Univ., Ithaca, N.Y.  
 14850  
 Crabbe Library, Periodicals Division, Eastern Ky. Univ., Richmond, Ky.  
 40475  
 Cooke Memorial Library, Georgetown College, Georgetown, Ky. 40324  
 Univ. of Illinois Library, Serials Dept., Urbana, Illinois 61801  
 Librarian, Jeffersontown High School, 9600 Old Six Mile Lane, Jefferson-  
 town, Ky. 40299  
 The Kentucky Library, Julia Neal, Director, Western Kentucky Univ.,  
 Bowling Green, Ky. 42101  
 Ky. Dept. of Libraries, c/o Mrs. Harrison, Reference Dept., Box 537,  
 Frankfort, Ky. 40601  
 Serials Dept., Margaret I. King Library, Univ. of Ky. Lexington, Ky.  
 40506  
 Louisville Free Public Library, 301 Library Place, Louisville, Ky. 40203  
 The Library, Serials Dept., Michigan State Univ., East Lansing, Michigan  
 48823  
 Acquisitions Dept., Mitchell Memorial Library, Mississippi State Univ.,  
 State College, Miss. 39762  
 Johnson Camden Library, Morehead State Univ., Morehead, Ky. 40351  
 The Library, Murray State Univ., Murray, Ky. 42071 V.N. #1  
 Accessions Dept., National Lending Library for Science and Technology,  
 Boston Spa, Yorkshire, England (LS 23 7 BQ)  
 Periodicals Section, New York State Library, Albany, N.Y. 12224  
 Serials Division, Ohio State Univ. Library, 1858 Neil Ave., Columbus,  
 Ohio 43210  
 Owensboro Area Museum, (c/o Mr. Joe Ford), 901 Frederica St., Owens-  
 boro, Ky. 42301  
 Paducah Public Library, 555 Washington St., Paducah, Ky. 42001  
 Serials Unit, Purdue Univ. Libraries, Lafayette, Ind. 47907



Jesse Stuart High School Library, 4601 Valley Station Rd., Valley Station, Ky. 40272

U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Office of the Secretary, Dept. Library, Room 2258, Washington, D.C. 20240

U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Office of Library Services, Acquisitions Branch, Washington, D.C. 20240

U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, Maryland 20810

Science Library, Western Ky. Univ., Bowling Green, Ky. 42101

Membership as of June 30, 1971.

**Members are urged to report errors in the membership roll to the Treasurer.**

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### EXCHANGES

*American Birds* (National Audubon Society in collaboration with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service)

*Atlantic Naturalist* (Audubon Naturalist Society of the Central Atlantic States, Washington, D.C.)

*Audubon Magazine* (National Audubon Society, New York, New York)

*Auk, The* (American Ornithologists' Union, Ithaca, New York)

*Bird-Banding* (Northeastern Bird-Banding Association, Inc.)

*Call Notes* (Huntington Bird Club and Department of Zoology, Marshall College, Huntington, West Virginia)

*Cassinia* (Deleware Valley Ornithological Club, Newtown, Pennsylvania)

*Chat* (Carolina Bird Club, Hillsboro, North Carolina)

*Condor* (Cooper Ornithological Club, Los Angeles, California)

*Florida Naturalist* (Florida Audubon Society, Maitland, Florida)

*Indiana Audubon Quarterly* (Indiana Audubon Society, Indianapolis, Indiana)

*Inland Bird Banding News* (Inland Bird Banding Association)

*Iowa Bird Life* (Iowa Ornithologists' Union, Davenport, Iowa)

*Jack Pine Warbler* (Michigan Audubon Society, Kalamazoo, Michigan)

*Kingbird* (Federation of New York State Bird Clubs, Inc., Albany, New York)

*Living Bird, The* (Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York)

*Loon, The* (Minnesota Ornithologists' Union, Minneapolis, Minnesota)

*Maine Field Naturalist* (Maine Audubon Society and Portland Society of Natural History)

*Massachusetts Audubon* (Massachusetts Audubon Society, Boston, Mass.)

*Migrant* (Tennessee Ornithological Society, Elizabethtown, Tennessee)

*Nebraska Bird Review* (Nebraska Ornithologists' Union, Lincoln, Nebraska)

*New Hampshire Audubon Quarterly* (Audubon Society of New Hampshire, Walpole, New Hampshire)

*Oriole* (Georgia Ornithological Society, Decatur, Georgia)

*Passenger Pigeon* (Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, Madison, Wisconsin)

*Raven* (Virginia Society of Ornithology, Lexington, Virginia)

*Redstart* (Brooks Bird Club, Inc., Wheeling, West Virginia)

*South Dakota Bird Notes* (South Dakota Ornithologists' Union, Huron, S.D.)

*Wildlife Review* (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Laurel, Maryland)

*Wilson Bulletin* (Wilson Ornithological Society, Ann Arbor, Michigan)