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The Kentucky Warbler (Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

Vol. 47

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American Goldfinch at the Nest

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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OUR COVER

The American Goldfinch (Spinus tristis), a fairly common resident in Kentucky, is a late nesting species and found particularly in shrubby and open fields. The cover picture of a pair at a nest, with young, was taken by Mabel Slack.

AN ANNOTATED LIST OF BIRDS OBSERVED IN HANCOCK COUNTY, KENTUCKY

FRED J. ALSOP, III

Hancock County is my birthplace, and though I lived there the first 18 years of my life and was active in the out-of-doors, I was not fully aware of the variety of its birdlife until I left it to pursue a college education in Tennessee. It was during this time that I developed an interest in ornithology that has continued to broaden.

Ornithological Work

A cursory literature search for previous ornithological work in Hancock County (Lovell and Slack, 1949; Mengel, 1965) revealed that almost nothing has been recorded about the birds of this county. The only published observation I found is one by Powell, 1960, (Mengel, 1965) of a Snowy Owl (Nyctea scandiaca) taken in the winter of 1958-59 in the county.

My purpose in this paper is to present an annotated list of those species of birds that I have recorded in Hancock County with the intent of adding information to the ornithological literature about an area not frequented by birders in Kentucky. For each species I have given a numerical status, the seasonal occurrence, and where possible, data on singing, reproduction, and other observations of interest.

Description of the Area

Hancock County is located in Middle Kentucky along its northern boundary in the region known as the Western Coal Fields, the region described as the Shawnee Section by Mengel (1965). In area it comprises approximately 119,680 acres—187 square miles—and is bounded on the north by the Ohio River, on the east by Breckinridge County, on the south by Ohio County, and on the west by Daviess County. The general topography is one of low flat flood plains in a narrow belt along the river with extensive exposed bluffs rising more than 150 feet above these alluvial lowlands in the vicinity of Hawesville and extending south of the bottoms eastward to the county line. Most of the county is characterized by gentle rolling hills and broad valleys many of which are cultivated and pastured.

About 44% of the county, 53,000 acres, is in woods. The forests and woodlots are mixed mesophytic and receive approximately 44 inches of precipitation annually. The predominant trees include oak (Quercus sp.), hickory (Carya sp.), yellow poplar (Liriodendron tulipifera), sweet gum (Liquidambar styraciflua), and red cedar (Juniperus virginiana). Almost all of this is second growth timber; localized logging has been carried on for many years. Agriculture in the area consists mainly of small farms with tobacco, soy beans, corn, and various grasses as the major crops. Some limited strip mining has been carried on in the middle and western sections of the county and oil is produced in the southeastern portions.

The county has been rural in nature and not densely inhabited with a population of approximately 6,700 people. The two centers of population are the river towns of Hawesville, the county seat, and Lewisport, each with a population of about 1,000. Recently several large industries including an aluminum rolling mill and a paper mill have located along the river lowlands. Their presence is now bringing changes to the county, its people, and its environment.

The Areas Covered in the Species List

All of the following observations were made in the northern one-third of Hancock County, with no observations made more than one mile south of a line running roughly parallel to and south of US 60, running east to west through the county. This paper is the result of records kept on weekends, holidays, university quarter breaks, and summer visits to the home of my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred J. Alsop, Jr., near Hawesville over a period from June, 1963, through November, 1970. At least 95% of the observations were made at this 200-acre tract, of which 75% is wooded, with some cultivated lands, several old abandoned fields, temporary streams, and three small ponds. The house and the surrounding woodlands are on the river bluffs just west of the Hawesville city limits and mostly south of US 60. Only those birds reported off this tract have their locations noted in the species list.

The Species List

The 163 species treated in this list are arranged in the order in which they appear in the fifth (1957) edition of the Check-list of North American Birds prepared by the American Ornithologists' Union.

PIED-BILLED GREBE. Podilymbus podiceps. Uncommon fall, winter, and spring resident. Most observations from Vastwood Lake, a 33-acre lake three miles west of Hawesville. Earliest fall record, October 17, 1964 (1). Latest spring record, May 1, 1965 (1).

GREAT BLUE HERON. Ardea herodias. Uncommon summer resident or visitant. One in flight over the river on April 5, 1964.

GREEN HERON. Butorides virescens. Fairly common summer resident. Earliest spring record, April 24, 1964. Latest fall record, August 20, 1970 (1).

COMMON EGRET. Casmerodius albus. Uncommon summer resident or visitant. One in flight over river on August 15, 1964.

YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON. Nyctanassa violacea. Uncommon summer resident. On July 28, 1963, I found an immature plumaged bird in a wet field four miles west of Hawesville.

CANADA GOOSE. Branta canadensis. Fairly common transient. I have seen these birds most often in October on and over the river where they occasionally rest.

SNOW GOOSE. Chen hyperborea. Very uncommon transient. Only record, a flock of nine in flight traveling south from the river on November 10, 1963.

MALLARD. Anas platyrhynchos. Fairly common winter resident. Earliest fall record, November 27, 1970. Latest spring record, April 4, 1964.

BLACK DUCK. Anas rubripes. Fairly common winter resident. Earliest fall record, November 27, 1970. Latest spring record, April 2, 1966, Vastwood Lake.

SHOVELER. Spatula clypeata. Uncommon transient. Only record, March 18, 1967 (3), Vastwood Lake.

BLUE-WINGED TEAL. Anas discors. Uncommon transient. Two records: April 4, 1964 (35), Lewisport river bottoms; April 12, 1964, three in flight from river.

WOOD DUCK. Aix sponsa. Uncommon summer resident. Earliest date, April 18, 1964. Latest fall record, October 15, 1965.

LESSER SCAUP. Aythya affinis. Only record, January 10, 1965 (3). COMMON GOLDENEYE. Bucephala clangula. Uncommon winter resident.

December 28, 1963 (9), on Ohio River; March 18, 1967 (1), Vastwood Lake. BUFFLEHEAD. Bucephala albeola. Uncommon winter resident. Earliest winter record, December 29, 1963. Latest spring record, April 2, 1966, Vastwood Lake.

TURKEY VULTURE. Cathartes aura. Common resident. The greatest concentration of these birds is at Jefferie's Cliff, a massive series of bluffs overlooking the river bottoms five miles east of Hawesville. Here they roost and probably nest.

BLACK VULTURE. Coragyps atratus. Uncommon resident. I most often see these birds in pairs working over the river bluffs on the obstruction currents over the Kentucky side.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK. Accipiter striatus. Rare resident. One or two of these birds have been present in the woodlot, south of my parents' home, since my first observation of the species there on November 19, 1963. On a few occasions I have seen a Sharp-shin soaring Buteo fashion above the abandoned fields and adjacent woods.

COOPER'S HAWK. Accipiter cooperii. Very rare resident. I have flushed single birds from woodland cover on the following dates: January 4, 1963, February 1, 1964, August 20, 1970. This species also was seen in a spiral flight over the same area on August 21, 1965, and November 28, 1970.

RED-TAILED HAWK. Buteo jamaicensis. Fairly common resident. Redtails have nested at least once on the home area; however, there is evidence the two young produced in 1963 were shot before they left the nest. A pair of Red-tails is still in residence on the area, and can be found on almost any walk through it.

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK. Buteo lineatus. Uncommon resident. I have not recorded this species in the summer months in the county, but it has not been searched for actively. At least one is usually present on our area in the winter and often its loud call can be heard ringing through the woods. Earliest fall record, November 25, 1967. Latest spring record, April 12, 1966.

BROAD-WINGED HAWK. Buteo platypterus. Fairly common summer resident. One pair usually present on the area. Earliest spring observation, April 24, 1964. Latest fall record, August 20, 1970 (2).

GOLDEN EAGLE. Aquila chrysaetos. Very rare transient or vagrant. My only record of this species is not only unusual because of the species' rarity in Kentucky, but because of the early date as well. On August 21, 1965, I observed an adult in a lifting current below the level of the sloping bluffs at the scenic turnout one and one-half miles east of Hawesville. I watched the eagle for several minutes as it continued to gain altitude to a height of several hundred feet over the bluff, after which it set its wings and glided rapidly out of sight in a southwesterly direction. During its ascent I viewed the eagle at times at a distance of no more than 300 feet with 7 x 35 binoculars.

MARSH HAWK. Circus cyaneus. Uncommon winter resident. Marsh Hawks are usually to be found in the winter working the flat fields that border the river. Earliest fall record, November 13, 1965. Latest spring record, March 13, 1966.

SPARROW HAWK. Falco sparverius. Fairly common resident.

BOBWHITE. Colinus virginianus. Common resident. The local Fish and Game Club has raised and released Bobwhites throughout the county for several years. These pen-raised birds, in addition to the native population,

make the species easily observed in the county. At least two coveys of about 15 birds each range our area.

RING-NECKED PHEASANT. Phasianus colchicus. Introduced and very rare resident. My only record is of a single banded male, killed on US 60 ten feet from our mail box early in the morning of April 7, 1964. To my knowledge none of the intermittently released birds has had reproductive success. I have been told the species is seen with some regularity in the river bottom lands in the extreme northwestern portion of the county.

AMERICAN COOT. Fulica americana. Fairly common winter resident. Found on the Ohio River, Vastwood Lake, and some of the larger farm lakes and ponds, as well as on some of the flooded strip pits that have been abandoned for years. The latter are sometimes a resting site for Pied-billed Grebes and puddle ducks.

KILLDEER. Charadrius vociferus. Common resident. Easily found at any

season in cultivated fields, especially along the river lowlands.

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER. Pluvialis dominica. Very rare transient. My only record of this rare transient in Kentucky is of one bird in spring plumage on April 4, 1964. It was in the company of Killdeer in a plowed river bottom field adjacent to county road 271, approximately four and one-half miles west of Hawesville. The bird was most striking in its breeding plumage. The underparts were black from the throat to the undertail coverts. Observations were made with a pair of tripoded 20 x 60 binoculars.

AMERICAN WOODCOCK. Philohela minor. Uncommon winter resident and transient. Earliest fall record, November 28, 1963. Latest spring record, March 23, 1967. I had four to seven woodcocks singing and performing their courtship flight nightly from just after sunset to after midnight during a period of bright moonlit nights from March 17 to 23, 1967, on about four acres of abandoned and cultivated fields on the area. COMMON SNIPE. Capella gallinago. Uncommon transient. I have three records of this species: March 17-23, 1967; April 1-3, 1966; and April 4, 1964.

SOLITARY SANDPIPER. Tringa solitaria. Uncommon transient. Only records are for three birds at a small lake on August 5-7, 1965.

GREATER YELLOWLEGS. Totanus melanoleucus. Uncommon transient. Two records, both in temporary pools in cultivated fields in the bottom lands, two miles west of Lewisport: April 2, 1965 (1), and May 2, 1965 (5). HERRING GULL. Larus argentatus. Rare winter resident. My only record is a flock of five individuals on November 25, 1967, in flight over the Ohio River.

ROCK DOVE. Columba livia. Fairly common resident. Easily found at all seasons around the towns and in some of the barnyards. A few are raised

MOURNING DOVE. Zenaidura macroura. Common to abundant resident. YELLOW-BILLED GUCKOO. Coccyzus americanus. Common summer resident. Earliest record, April 24, 1964. Latest record, August 22, 1970.

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO. Coccyzus erythropthalmus. Very uncommon transient. My only record is of two birds in a small deciduous tree over a temporary stream in the middle of an abandoned field. The birds allowed a very close approach and I did not flush them from their low perches even though I stood within 25 feet of them. They were slow and deliberate in their movements and could easily have been overlooked. The observation was made on May 2, 1965.

SCREECH OWL. Otus asio. Uncommon resident. In May 1968, a nest of this species, with four young several weeks of age, was found in the attic of a home in the town of Lewisport.

GREAT HORNED OWL. Bubo virginianus. Fairly common resident. At least one pair can be occasionally flushed in our woods, and often their

calls are heard.

BARRED OWL. Strix varia. Fairly common resident. I found one sitting about five feet above the ground near a game trail on the morning of March 13, 1966. These birds are heard more often than the Great Horned Owls and sometimes can be heard to call in the daytime.

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW. Caprimulgus carolinensis. Uncommon summer resident. From our yard I hear approximately one bird of this species call-

ing for each 10-12 Whip-poor-wills.

WHIP-POOR-WILL. Caprimulgus vociferus. Common summer resident. Earliest singing record, April 8, 1965. Latest singing record, August 22, 1970.

COMMON NIGHTHAWK. Chordeiles minor. Fairly common summer resident. Earliest record, May 1, 1965. Latest record, September 6, 1964. CHIMNEY SWIFT. Chaetura pelagica. Common summer resident. Earliest

record, April 1, 1966. Latest record October 17, 1965.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD. Archilochus colubris. Common summer resident. Earliest date, April 18, 1964. Latest record, September 6, 1964.

BELTED KINGFISHER. Megaceryle alcyon. Fairly common resident. YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER. Colaptes auratus. Common resident. In 1968 a pair nested in the dead top of a black locust (Robinia pseudoacacia) at the edge of the yard.

PILEATED WOODPECKER. Dryocopus pileatus. Fairly common resident. At least one pair of these birds on our area.

RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER. Centurus carolinus. Common resident. RED-HEADED WOODPECKER. Melanerpes erythrocephalus. Uncommon resident; local. My records from Hawesville are all of fall birds: October 17, 1964 (1); October 14-17, 1965 (2); November 28, 1963 (1); and November 26-28, 1970 (1). One spring record from a river bottom woods three miles east of Lewisport on April 24, 1964.

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER. Sphyrapicus varius. Fairly common winter resident. Earliest fall record, October 17, 1964. Latest spring

record, April 25, 1964.

HAIRY WOODPECKER. Dendrocopos villosus. Uncommon resident. DOWNY WOODPECKER. Dendrocopos pubescens. Common resident.

EASTERN KINGBIRD. Tyrannus tyrannus. Common summer resident. Earliest spring record, April 19, 1964. Latest fall record, August 22, 1970

GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER. Myiarchus crinitus. Fairly common summer resident. Earliest record, April 18, 1964. Latest fall record, August 22, 1970.

EASTERN PHOEBE. Sayornis phoebe. Common summer resident. Earliest spring record, March 12, 1966. Latest fall record, November 13, 1965. ACADIAN FLYCATCHER. Empidonax virescens. Common summer resident. Earliest spring record, April 19, 1964. Latest fall record, August

20, 1970.

TRAILL'S FLYCATCHER. Empidonax traillii. Very rare transient. My only record is of a bird I saw singing on May 9, 1964.

LEAST FLYCATCHER. Empidonax minimus. Very uncommon transient and rare summer resident. I have only two records: May 2, 1965, a singing bird at the edge of a woodlot and an abandoned field, and July 7, 1963, a singing bird in a small clearing at an abandoned farm pond. Observed at 65 feet with 20 X 60 binoculars.

EASTERN WOOD PEWEE. Contopus virens. Common summer resident. Earliest record, April 18, 1964. Latest record, September 6, 1964.

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER. Nuttallornis borealis. Very rare transient. I have two fall records of nonsinging birds, both of which were perched in exposed positions on the tips of small dead limbs in the crowns of trees, near a small pond. September 6, 1964 (1) and August 22, 1970 (1). HORNED LARK. Eremophila alpestris. Uncommon resident. Most commonly found on the flat fields that border the Ohio River.

TREE SWALLOW. Iridoprocne bicolor. Uncommon transient. Two records:

April 4, 1964, and April 8, 1965.

ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW. Stelgidopteryx ruficollis. Uncommon transient? Two records: April 17 and 24, 1964. I have not checked its habitat in the summer.

BARN SWALLOW. Hirundo rustica. Common summer resident. Earliest spring record, April 17, 1964. Latest fall record, August 29, 1967.

CLIFF SWALLOW. Petrochelidon pyrrhonota. Very uncommon summer visitant. My only record is of one bird on June 15, 1963, at Vastwood

Lake. PURPLE MARTIN. Progne subis. Common summer resident. Earliest spring record, an adult male on March 28-29, 1970 inspecting just erected martin house. Latest fall record, August 7, 1966. Martins have nested on our area each summer, with the highest number of breeding

pairs being 38.

BLUE. JAY. Cyanocitta cristata. Common resident.

COMMON CROW. Corvus brachyrhynchos. Common resident.

CAROLINA CHICKADEE. Parus carolinensis. Common resident.

TUFTED TITMOUSE. Parus bicolor. Common resident.

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH. Sitta carolinensis. Uncommon resident. One was observed carrying nesting materials into a tree cavity 30 feet above the ground, April 24, 1964.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH. Sitta canadensis. Winter resident varying greatly in numbers from year to year. Earliest fall record, October 14,

1965. Latest spring record, April 3, 1966.

BROWN CRÉEPER. Certhia familiaris. Fairly common winter resident. Earliest fall record, October 24, 1965. Latest spring record, April 12, 1964.

HOUSE WREN. Troglodytes aedon. Very rare summer resident or transient. My only record is of two birds, one actively singing in the yard from August 6-22, 1970.

HOUSE WREN. Troglodytes aedon. Very rare summer resident or transident. Earliest fall record, October 24, 1965. Latest spring record, April

8, 1965.

BEWICK'S WREN. Thryomanes bewickii. Uncommon resident. I have one record of one bird on February 20, 1965, in a farm lot near a barn. All my other records are between the dates of April 8, 1965, and October 24, 1965. Each year since 1963 a pair of Bewick's Wrens have successfully raised one brood in our garage, building their nest on the shelves lining the walls.

CAROLINA WREN. Thryothorus ludovicianus. Common resident.

MOCKINGBIRD. Mimus polyglottos. Common resident.

CATBIRD. Dumetella carolinensis. Common summer resident. Earliest

spring date. April 18, 1964. Latest fall record, September 6, 1964.

BROWN THRASHER. Toxostoma rufum. Common summer resident and very uncommon winter resident. Almost all my records for this species are from April 9 to September 6. I occasionally find one of these birds, however, in dense woodland undergrowth in the winter months. ROBIN. Turdus migratorius. Common resident.

WOOD THRUSH. Hylocichla mustelina. Common summer resident. Earliest

record, April 8, 1965. Latest fall record, September 6, 1964.

HERMIT THRUSH. Hylocichla guttata. Uncommon winter resident. Earliest fall record, October 17, 1964. Latest spring record, April 8, 1965.

SWAINSON'S THRUSH. Hylocichla ustulata. Transient. My only record for the species is for the period of May 20-22, 1966.

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH. Hylocichla minima. Transient. My only record is for May 9, 1964.

VEERY. Hylocichia fuscescens. Transient. My only record is for one bird on May 9, 1964.

EASTERN BLUEBIRD. Sialia sialis. Common resident. Bluebirds have produced two broods annually since 1963 in two houses on the area, averaging four young per brood.

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER. Polioptila caerulea. Common summer resident. Earliest spring date, April 4, 1964. Latest fall record, August 29. 1967.

GÓLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET. Regulus satrapa. Fairly common winter resident. Earliest fall record, November 25, 1967. Latest spring record, April 12, 1964.

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET. Regulus calendula. Fairly common transient and rare winter resident. Earliest fall date, October 24, 1965. Latest spring record, April 25, 1964.

CEDAR WAXWING. Bombycilla cedrorum. Irregular. I have records for this species for all months except June, July, and August.

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE. Lanius ludovicianus. Uncommon resident. Most often found in the lowland belt along the river in the cultivated and old field areas.

STARLING. Sturnus vulgaris. Common resident — abundant in the winter.

WHITE-EYED VIREO. Vireo griseus. Common summer resident. Earliest spring date, April 8, 1965. Latest fall record, August 29, 1964.

BELL'S VIREO. Vireo bellii. Vagrant — very rare transient (hypothetical, Mengel, 1965). One record of one bird on April 12, 1964. The morning was windy with gusts to about 12 mph, a light, misty rain was falling early but had almost ended by 6:30 a.m., and the temperature was approximately 50°F. I was attracted by an unfamiliar song to a small dense clump of wild plum (Prunus sp.) growing in a thicket in an old field in which the predominant vegetation is honeysuckle (Lonicera sp.), black locust, and Sassafras albidum. The bird was moving through the thicket just below the canopy feeding and singing. It was a small vireo with two white wingbars; the upper parts were olive, being grayest on the crown, and the underparts were white with a yellow wash on the sides, flanks, and crissum. The eye was black, surrounded by a white eye-ring, broken anteriorly, and white lores giving a spectacled effect to the eye. The

song was distinctive. It was delivered rapidly and often with only short pauses between the songs. The most frequently given form consisted of two phrases, the first ending on a rising note, the last on a downward inflection. The song was strikingly like the description given in Peterson (1947). The bird was carefully observed for approximately 30 minutes at close range with 7 x 35 binoculars and all field marks and the song were checked several times. The song could be heard coming from the plum thicket at frequent intervals until about 2:30 p.m. that afternoon. On the following day the bird could not be found, and was not seen thereafter.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO. Vireo flavifrons. Fairly common summer resident. Earliest spring date, April 17, 1964. Latest fall record, September 6. 1964.

SOLITARY VIREO. Vireo solitarius. Very uncommon transient. My only record, one bird on May 1, 1965.

RED-EYED VIREO. Vireo olivaceus. Common summer resident. Earliest spring record, April 17, 1964. Latest fall date, September 6, 1964.

WARBLING VIREO. Vireo gilvus. My only records are for fall transients: August 22, 1965 (1), August 29, 1964 (1), and September 1964 (1). This species should be a summer resident, but I have not searched for it in its preferred habitat.

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER. Mniotilta varia. Fairly common summer resident. Earliest spring record, April 8, 1964. Latest fall date, September 6, 1964.

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER. Protonotaria citrea. Uncommon summer resident. Earliest spring record, April 9, 1964. Latest fall record, August 19, 1963.

WORM-EATING WARBLER. Helmitheros vermivorus. Fairly common summer resident. Earliest spring date, April 18, 1964. Latest fall record. August 22, 1970.

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER. Vermivora chrysoptera. Uncommon transient. My only records are for April 25, 1964, and May 2, 1965, both adult plumaged males.

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER. Vermivora pinus. Fairly common transient; perhaps rare summer resident. I have four records of this species of one bird each: April 18, 1964, May 2, 1965, August 22, 1970, and September 6, 1964.

TENNESSEE WARBLER. Vermivora peregrina. Common transient. Spring records from April 19 to May 2. Fall records from September 6 to October 17.

NASHVILLE WARBLER. Vermivora ruficapilla. Fairly common transient. All my records are for the spring from April 19 to May 2.

PARULA WARBLER. Parula americana. Fairly common summer resident. Earliest spring date, April 18, 1965. Latest fall record, August 22, 1970.

YELLOW WARBLER. Dendroica petechia. Common summer resident. Earlist spring record, April 23, 1964. Latest summer date, August 22, 1970. CAPE MAY WARBLER. Dendroica tigrina. Uncommon transient. My only record is one of an adult singing male on May 9, 1964.

MYRTLE WARBLER. Dendroica coronata. Uncommon winter resident and fairly common transient. Earliest fall date, October 17; 1964. Latest spring record, May 2, 1965.

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER. Dendroica virens. Common

transient; very uncommon summer resident? Earliest spring date, April 26, 1964. Latest fall record, October 24, 1965. Two summer dates, both of single males: June 9, 1965, and July 22, 1966. (These could both be wandering birds).

CERULEAN WARBLER. Dendroica cerulea. Uncommon summer resident. Earliest spring record, April 18, 1964, Latest summer record, August 19, 1963.

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER. Dendroica fusca. Fairly common transient. All my records are in the spring from April 18 to May 2.

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER. Dendroica dominica. Uncommon summer resident. My earliest arrival date is April 11, 1964.

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER. Dendroica pensylvanica. Transient. I have only two records: May 9, 1964, and October 17, 1965.

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER. Dendroica castanea. Transient, Only three records: May 9, 1964, August 7, 1966, and October 17, 1965.

BLACKPOLL WARBLER. Dendroica striata. Transient. I have only one record of 15-20 individuals on May 9, 1964.

PINE WARBLER. Dendroica pinus. Very uncommon. Only two records of single birds: April 11, 1964, and September 18, 1964.

PRAIRIE WARBLER. Dendroica discolor. Common summer resident. All my records are for spring and summer birds from April 17 to June 9. PALM WARBLER. Dendroica palmarum. Fairly common transient. I have

records for spring only from April 18 to May 2. OVENBIRD. Sciurus aurocapillus. Very uncommon summer resident. Only three records of one bird each: May 2, 1965; May 9, 1964; and June

9. 1965. NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH. Seiurus noveboracensis. Uncommon tran-

sient. My only record is of two to three birds in a small woodland swamp on April 29-30, 1966. LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH. Seiurus motacilla. Fairly common sum-

mer resident. Earliest spring record April 11, 1964.

KENTUCKY WARBLER. Oporornis formosus. Common summer resident. Earliest spring date, April 18, 1964. Latest summer record, August

YELLOWTHROAT. Geothlypis trichas. Common summer resident. Earliest spring record, April 18, 1964. Latest fall date, September 6, 1964.

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT. Icteria virens. Common summer resident. Earliest spring record, April 24, 1964. Latest summer record. August 22, 1970.

HOODED WARBLER. Wilsonia citrina. Fairly common summer resident. Earliest spring date, April 18, 1964. Latest summer record, August CANADA WARBLER. Wilsonia canadensis. Transient. Only one record of a single bird on September 6, 1964.

WILSON'S WARBLER. Wilsonia pusilla. Transient. I have recorded only one individual, a male, on May 8, 1964.

AMERICAN REDSTART. Setophaga ruticilla. Transient. Only two records: May 2, 1965 (1) and on May 9, 1964 (3).

HOUSE SPARROW. Passer domesticus. Very common resident. EASTERN MEADOWLARK. Sturnella magna. Common resident in agricultural areas.

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD. Agelaius phoeniceus. Very common resident in agricultural areas.

ORCHARD ORIOLE. Icterus spurius. Fairly common summer resident. My

earliest spring record is for April 18, 1964. Latest fall date, August 29, 1967.

BALTIMORE ORIOLE. *Icterus galbula*. Uncommon to fairly common transient. I have two spring records: April 25, 1964 (4), May 2, 1965 (3); and two late summer records: August 20, 1970 (1), and September 6, 1964 (1).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD. Euphagus carolinus. Uncommon transient. Only two spring records: April 4, 1964 (9), and April 9, 1964 (4); observed in cultivated lowlands along the Ohio River.

COMMON GRACKLE. Quiscalus quiscula. Common to very common resident.

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD. Molothrus ater. Common resident. Most conspicuous in spring.

SCARLET TANAGER. Piranga olivacea. Uncommon summer resident. Earliest spring date, April 26, 1964. Latest summer record, August 22, 1970.

SUMMER TANAGER. Piranga rubra. Common summer resident. Earliest spring record, April 18, 1964. Latest summer date, September 6, 1964. CARDINAL. Richmondena cardinalis. Common resident.

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK. Pheucticus ludovicianus. Common transient. Spring dates from April 18 to May 2. Fall observations from September 6 to October 17.

INDIGO BUNTING. Passerina cyanea. Very common summer resident; one seen in winter. Earliest spring record, April 19, 1964. Latest summer record, August 22, 1970. One appeared at our feeder in February, 1970, and was a regular visitor through late March. When first observed blue feathers were visible in the wings and tail and by March the bird was in the plumage of a breeding adult male.

DICKCISSEL. Spiza americana. Uncommon summer resident. Most common in the cultivated areas in the bottom lands along the Ohio River.

EVENING GROSBEAK. Hesperiphona vespertina. Casual winter visitant. Two records, both in the spring: six birds at our feeder on March 17-20, 1969, and 15 visiting the feeders on March 28-29, 1970.

PURPLE FINCH. Carpodacus purpureus. Uncommon to fairly common winter resident. Numbers vary widely from year to year. Earliest fall date, November 28, 1965. Latest spring record, April 19, 1964.

AMERICAN GOLDFINCH. Spinus tristis. Common resident.

WHITE-WINGED CROSSBILL. Loxia leucoptera. Casual winter visitant; rare. Only one record, November 25, 1965. I observed a flock of 25-30 birds of this species for approximately 45 minutes as they fed on the cones of several Virginia pines (Pinus virginiana) at about 9:30 a.m.

RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE. Pipilo erythrophthalmus. Common resident. SAVANNAH SPARROW. Passerculus sandwichensis. Fairly common transient.

VESPER SPARROW. Pooceetes gramineus. Transient. My only record is of three birds on April 4, 1964.

SLATE-COLORED JUNCO. Junco hyemalis. Common winter resident. Earliest fall record October 17, 1964. Latest spring date, April 8, 1965. TREE SPARROW. Spizella arborea. Fairly common winter resident; local. Since I started keeping records in 1963, a flock of 10 to 25 birds of this species has wintered each year in several fields that have been abandoned for 15-20 years on our area. Earliest fall date, November 25, 1965. Latest spring record, March 23, 1967.

CHIPPING SPARROW. Spizella passerina. Common summer resident. Earliest spring record, March 17, 1967. Latest fall date, November 25, 1967.

FIELD SPARROW. Spizella pusilla. Very common resident.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW. Zonotrichia leucophrys. Uncommon winter resident; local. Earliest fall date October 17, 1964. Latest spring date, April 18, 1964.

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW. Zonotrichia albicollis. Common winter resident. Earliest fall record, October 14, 1965. Latest spring record, May 2, 1965.

FOX SPARROW. Passerella iliaca. Uncommon winter resident. Earliest fall record, November 6, 1964. Latest spring date, April 8, 1965. SWAMP SPARROW. Melospiza georgiana. Fairly common winter resident. Earliest fall date, October 17, 1964. Latest spring record, May 2, 1965. SONG SPARROW. Melospiza melodia. Uncommon to fairly common resident.

Discussion

The preceding list of 163 species of birds observed in Hancock County. Kentucky, is intended to be regarded only as a rough species index of a portion of the birds that actually occur in the entire county. To be of ornithological value several points should be kept in mind: (1) Perhaps the most important is that the periods of observation were conducted over short spans of time, mostly weekends, and at irregular intervals throughout the seven year period covered by this list. (2) The early and late dates cited are not intended to be considered as extreme dates for the species, occurrence in the county or Kentucky, but rather as the extreme dates recorded in my field notes when I was present in the county to make the observations. (3) Abundance records for many species should be considered indicators only, and some will undoubtedly change as more observations are made. No censuses of individuals have been conducted, and few breeding records have been kept. (4) No extensive effort has been made to cover all the different habitats in the county that surely provide niches for many species not yet recorded there. (5) Only a small area of the county has been birded at all.

With due consideration of all the above, the species listed herein are presented as they have occurred, and as accurately as possible.

The 163 species of birds recorded in Hancock County, Kentucky, are assigned to the following categories in the numbers indicated: resident, 48; summer resident, 47; winter resident, 20; transient, 37; winter visitant, 2; and an additional 9 species are included in two categories. For example, the American Woodcock is given as a winter resident and a transient.

For each species an effort has been made to give a numerical status, the seasonal occurrence, and for selected species comments on singing, reproduction, and location.

Several species not to be expected, or of very uncommon occurrence in Kentucky, are noted, including the Golden Eagle, White-winged Crossbill, American Golden Plover, and Bell's Vireo.

Acknowledgments

I gratefully express my thanks to Dr. J. C. Howell, professor in

the Department of Zoology, University of Tennessee, for his critical reading of this paper.

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FORTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL FALL MEETING

October 8-10, 1971

The Kentucky Ornithological Society opened its Forty-Eighth Annual Fall Meeting at Kentucky Dam Village State Park on Friday, October 8, 1971. Registration began at 5:00 p.m. in the Village Inn.

President Raymond Nall opened the Friday evening meeting in the Recreation Hall by welcoming all members and guests. The program consisted of two interesting reports. In the first Edwin Larson, Jr., discussed his continuing study of Common Nighthawks and his discovery of nesting Killdeer on the roof tops of schools in Jefferson County. Jerry Allen reported on the Wood Duck nesting program in Land Between the Lakes and on his breeding study of Turkeys in Land Between the Lakes.

Dr. Clell Peterson outlined plans for the Saturday morning field trips. A special field trip, leaving at 6:15 a.m., was to be led by Jerry Allen into areas where observers were apt to find Turkeys. Other trips would be led by Professor Whitt and Dr. Peterson.

The next morning, an early drizzle turned to a delightful clear and

warm autumn day, and all parties enjoyed excellent trips.

President Raymond Nall called the general business meeting to order at 3:45 p.m. in the Recreation Hall. Nineteen members of the society were present. The minutes of the last business meeting were approved as published in *The Kentucky Warbler*. Mrs. Daubard, Secretary-Treasurer, read the treasurer's report; Dr. Nall stated that it would be filed for audit.

Dr. Nall announced that William Ruhe would continue as K.O.S. delegate to K.E.P., with Burt L. Monroe, Jr., and F. W. Stamm as alternates. With respect to K.O.S. relations with K.E.P., Albert Powell inquired if

local chapters of K.O.S. were allowed to take action in environmental issues. After some discussion, Mr. Powell moved that local chapters be specifically permitted to act in local issues. Mr. Brecher suggested that the motion be amended to "encouraged" instead of "permitted"; and the motion as finally moved (Powell) and seconded (Brecher) read: "The local chapters of the Kentucky Ornithological Society are authorized and encouraged to take action in local environmental and conservation issues." The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Brecher then reported on the status of the Falls of the Ohio. Little by little, plans for an Interstate Park are going forward. Despite considerable support from both Indiana and Kentucky, the Spindletop Research Foundation has not presented concrete plans for action. Most recently, New Albany, Indiana, has given a fifteen-acre tract to the Falls of the Ohio Interstate Park Commission as part of the eventual holding of 2000 acres. However after seven years the park is still more an idea than a fact.

Mrs. F. W. Stamm reported on matters relating to *The Kentucky Warbler*. Mississippi State University has ordered a complete backfile of *The Kentucky Warbler*, a recognition of its scientific value. Mrs. Stamm also noted two studies that members ought to know about. David Peakall, Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University, is undertaking a nationwide survey of Great Blue Heron colonies. Anyone knowing of such a herony was advised to inform him. Also, Sanderlings are now being colormarked for study, and persons observing individuals so marked should report them to the Long Point Bird Observatory.

The President then called for the report of the nominating committee. Mrs. Stamm, chairman, (other members: Dr. Clell Peterson, Miss Evelyn Schneider, Mrs. Wallace Whalen) announced the following nominees: President, Dr. Raymond Nall, Murray; Vice-President, Dr. Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Louisville; Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer, Mrs. Mary Louise Daubard, Louisville; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Eugene Wilson, Bowling Green; Councillors (two-year terms), Albert Powell, Owensboro; Dr. Herbert Shadowen, Bowling Green. Councillors held over for another year each are: Leonard Brecher, Louisville, and Dr. Wendell Kingsolver, Carlisle. Mr. F. W. Stamm moved that the nominees be elected by acclamation; the motion was seconded by Mr. Belt and so voted.

The acting recording secretary read the following motion of the Executive Board: "Be it moved that the president be authorized to appoint a finance committee to reinvest the seven \$100 shares presently in the Endowment Fund in order to provide a greater return, the committee to consist of Mr. Brecher, chairman, and Mr. Stamm and Mrs. Daubard." The motion passed.

Dr. Nall announced that the fall meeting in 1972 would be at Lake Cumberland, and was set tentatively for the second weekend of October. Dr. Shadowen asked if Louisville had been considered as a meeting place, and at Dr. Nall's request, Mr. Stamm explained that he suggested to the President and other members that the Board consider holding the 1973, rather than 1972, meeting in Louisville, with plans of celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the society in the city in which it had been founded in 1923. The members present agreed that this was an excellent proposal.

Dr. Nall announced that the board had recommended that he name a committee to propose certain changes in the by-laws of the society, the committee to be composed of Dr. Peterson (chairman) and Miss Schneider

and Professor Whitt as members. The motion was passed. There was no further new business, but before Dr. Nall adjourned the meeting, Mr. Stamm moved a vote of thanks to all the officers; Dr. Shadowen seconded

the motion, and it was overwhelmingly approved.

The Saturday night speaker was Dr. Russell E. Mumford of Purdue University. Dr. Mumford spoke on "Birds and the Ecology of Indiana's Prairie," illustrating his lecture with his own slides. He portrayed graphically the destruction of large areas of the original prairie and the virtual extinction of the Greater Prairie Chicken in Indiana. The ploughing up of the old prairie, the destruction of its ecology, and the extirpation of the Prairie Chicken, followed by a year of crops and then reversion to the soil bank, highlights the weaknesses of our programs for the wise use of our lands and wildlife resources.

Mr. Willard Gray compiled the bird list for the day. The number of species reported by all parties was 92, including eight species of ducks, Turkey, two adult Bald Eagles, and an Osprey. Dr. Peterson announced the field trips for Sunday morning, including a trip to Murphey's Pond led by Mr. Gray. Four Sandhill Cranes flying over proved the most interesting observation on this trip. Other parties went to the Goose Island area, the Silo Overlook, and Crooked Creek. Among the additional species for Sunday morning were: Spotted Sandpiper, Tree Swallow, and Black-crowned Night Heron (immature). The meeting was adjourned.

Clell T. Peterson Acting Recording Secretary

REPORT OF THE TREASURER October 1, 1971 GENERAL FUND

Receipts

BALANCE FORWARD			\$1196.58
230 Active Memberships @ \$3.00	\$ 690.00		
5 Family Memberships @ 6.00	30.00		
70 Family Memberships @ 4.00	280.00		
34 Contributing Memberships @ 5.00	170.00		
16 Student Memberships @ 2.00	32.00		
2 Life Memberships @ 50.00	100.00		
1 Life Membership (part pay.) @ 20.00	20.00		
Conversion of two Single Memberships			
to Family @ 1.00	2.00	\$1324.00	
			
Interest income Jefferson Federal			
on Full-Paid Shares		26.52	
Contributions:			
Gordon Wilson Fund		10.00	
· Sally Schell Ruhe Memorial Fund transferred			
from Gordon Wilson Fund for Ornithology		50.00	
Sales:			
Kentucky Warbler	14.25		
Mobiles	14.00		
Sleeve Patches	7.50		
Check List Cards	31.30		
Oneck hist Cards	97.00		

Summary of Birds	70.05	- i
Refund, Cumberland Falls (15%)	40000	
Spring Masting 1071	126.60	
Spring Meeting 1971	467.85	
T.O.S. repayment of Loan	125.60	
Fall Meeting 1971 — Preregistration	25.00	
Total Receipts		2225.62
Total		3422.20
Disbursements		
Printing: The Kentucky Warbler, 4 issues	975.66	
Kentucky Warbler cuts	6.31	
Letter Heads, 1M	16.28	
Brochures	42.00	1040.25
Supplies & Dostogo	00.50	
Supplies & Postage	88.52	400 50
Mailing Permit and Deposits	105.00	193.52
Transferred to Endowment Fund		100.00
Kentucky State Treas. (Filing Fee)		5.00
Expenses, Fall Meeting, 1970		308.91
Expenses, Spring Meeting, 1971		323.84
Mammoth Cave Hotel—Payment for T.O.S.		125.60
Nature Conservancy—on a/c Murphy's Pond		120.00
from Sally Schell Ruhe Memorial Fund		50.00
Miscellaneous		12.64
		12.04
Total Disbursements		2159.76
Balance on Hand		1262.44
ENDOWMENT FUND		
Balance in Savings Account—October 1, 1970		\$1476.85
Seven Full-Paid Shares		700.00
		2176.85
Receipts		
- '		
Interest on Full-Paid Shares	26.52	
Interest on Savings Account	98.27	
Two Life Memberships @ 50.00	100.00	
Total Receipts	·	224.79
Total		2401.64

Disbursements		
Transfer of Interest on Full-Paid Shares		
to General Fund		26.52
Balance in Fund, Oct. 1, 1971		2375.12
Total		2401.64
Endowment Fund consisting of receipts for		
Life Memberships is invested in Jefferson Federal		
Savings & Loan Association, Louisville, Ky.	. =00.00	
Assets: Seven Full-Paid Shares	\$ 700.00 1675.12	
Bal. in Savings Account 10/1/71	1079.12	
Note: Second Quarter interest of \$8.80 on full paid shares (due in June) was not received		
prior to 10/1/71		
•		
THE GORDON WILSON FUND FOR ORNIT		
Balance in Savings Account		1230.78
Receipts		
Interest on Savings Account		61.31
Total		1292.09
Disbursements		
Contributions to Nature Conservancy for		
Murphy's Pond from Sally Schell Ruhe		
Memorial Gift		50.00
		1040.00
Balance	\$ 798.00	1242.09
Principal Fund	444.09	
Accumulated Interest	444.00	
Total	1242.09	
Receipts for Gordon Wilson Fund invested in		
Greater Louisville First Federal Savings & Loan		
Assn., Louisville, Ky.		
BALANCE SHEET		
Assets:		
Cash in General Fund, First National Bank,		\$1262.44
Louisville, Ky.		\$1404.44
Endowment Fund, Jefferson Federal Savings and Loan Assn., Louisville, Ky.		2375.12
Gordon Wilson Fund for Ornithology, Greater		
Louisville First Federal Savings and		
Loan Assn., Louisville, Ky.		1242.09
		4879.68
m . 1		**********
Total Assets	ry Louise	~

MEMBERS AND GUESTS IN ATTENDANCE

BLANDVILLE: Newton O. Belt

BOWLING GREEN: Dr. and Mrs. Herbert E. Shadowen CARLISLE: Dr. and Mrs. Wendell Kingsolver and 3 children

DAWSON SPRINGS: Edwin E. Ray

EDDYVILLE: Lt. Col. and Mrs. M. Z. Tanner FRANKFORT: Mr. and Mrs. Howard Jones

GLASGOW: Frances Ellis, Marquita Gillenwater

LOUISVILLE: Amelia Alford, Bert Bone, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Brecher, Mrs. M. L. Daubard, Ida Knopp, Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth McConnell, Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Stamm, Mrs. George L. Seitz

MACEO: A. L. Powell, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Ray

MURRAY: Jerry Allen, J. B. Andre, Edwin R. Larson, Jr., Michael Miller, Dr. Raymond W. Nall, Dr. Clell Peterson

OWENSBORO: Sister Casimir Czurles, Mr. and Mrs. Ramon Iles, Wynema Sims, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Wilson

PADUCAH: Yvonne Dowd, Robert Rottgering

RICHMOND: A. L. Whitt

BOONEVILLE, IND.: Donald Andrews, Willard Gray

LAFAYETTE, IND.: Dr. and Mrs. Russel Mumford and Russel, Jr.

NEW ALBANY, IND.: Vera Stanfield

WHITE PIGEON, MICH.: Oscar McKinley Bryens

BIRDS RECORDED AT KENTUCKY DAM VILLAGE STATE PARK

The K.O.S. field trips on October 9 and 10, 1971, at Kentucky Dam Village State Park, were exciting and interesting. Late migrants and winter birds were seen on all trips. A cold front preceded the outings and may have triggered the southward movement of birds since migration seemed to be in full swing. Canada Geese and ducks were feeding in the bays and inlets at Barkley Lake while a mature Bald Eagle flew overhead and 10 Black-bellied Plovers, in winter plumage, flew to the sandbar, below, as we watched from Silo Overlook. In the wooded areas surrounding us various species of warblers, some in spring plumage, were flitting from tree to tree. Also, the metallic "eek" notes of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak were heard, and one by one new species of birds were added to the list. One hundred and one species, including three observed at Murphey's Pond but not at the Park, were recorded on the two days. The list as compiled by Willard Gray follows:

Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Canada Goose (350-400), Snow Goose (2), Mallard, Black Duck, Gadwall, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, American Widgeon, Wood Duck, Turkey Vulture, Black Vulture, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Bald Eagle (2), Marsh Hawk, Osprey (2), Sparrow Hawk, Turkey (4), Sandhill Crane (4 at Murphey's Pond), American Coot, Killdeer, Blackbellied Plover (10), Common Snipe, Spotted Sandpiper, Greater Yellowlegs (1), Lesser Yellowlegs (4), Ring-billed Gull, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher,

Yellow-shafted Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Redheaded Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Wood Pewee, Tree Swallow (200), Rough-winged Swallow (Murphey's Pond), Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, Common Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, House Wren, Carolina Wren, Short-billed Marsh Wren, Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Robin, Hermit Thrush, Eastern Bluebird, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, Starling, Solitary Vireo (Murphey's Pond), Red-eyed Vireo, Black-and-white Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Myrtle Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler, Yellowthroat, House Sparrow; Eastern Meadowlark, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Summer Tanager, Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Purple Finch, American Goldfinch. Rufous-sided Towhee, Slate-colored Junco, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, and Song Sparrow.—A. L. S.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Mr. Kenneth P. Able, graduate student at the University of Georgia, and K.O.S. member, was awarded the Wilson Prize at the Fifty-second Annual Meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society, at Dauphin Island, Alabama, April 22-25, 1971. His presentation of "The flight directions of autumn nocturnal migrants on the Louisiana Gulf Coast" was chosen as the best paper by a student or non-professional at the Annual Meeting.

Miss Evelyn Schneider, K.O.S. librarian, has just returned from a five weeks tour in "Unknown Australia". On this trip she was given the opportunity to see the beauty of the island continent and the wealth and diversity of its fauna and flora. She was overwhelmed by the many, many colorful species of birds endemic to that unusual country.

IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Edwin V. Thompson, Jr. Mr. Edwin V. Thompson, Jr. Carl F. Kerbel

The forty-seventh volume of *The Kentucky Warbler* is now completed and the editor wishes to acknowledge, with grateful thanks, the cooperation and assistance of the entire editorial staff (see page 58 for a list of personnel). Also, special thanks is due Evelyn Schneider and Frederick W. Stamm for helpfulness in various ways.