

legs were dark. The call-note was indistinguishable from that of a Black-throated Green Warbler (*Dendroica virens*). Based on the presence of a white throat and a wash of brown in the back, the bird was judged to be in first year plumage and probably a female.

While the bird was present in the cemetery, its foraging strategy was quite variable. During the first day of observation the warbler confined much of its activity to the upper levels of large deciduous and coniferous trees and was always in close proximity of the flock of small passerines. On subsequent visits, the bird was found with the large mixed-species flock that circulated through the cemetery or was found off by itself.

The bird was also observed foraging on the ground, in low shrubs and in small trees. In one instance, the warbler was studied in a crab-apple for forty minutes as it worked the tree in a slow vireo-like manner. Hovering behavior similar to that of kinglets was also noted.

Once the weather turned colder, the bird was most often found on or near the Henry Clay statue located near the entrance of the cemetery. It was repeatedly observed gleaning insects from the warm, vertical surfaces of the statue's stone pedicel.

This represents the first documented record for the Black-throated Gray Warbler in Kentucky. A previous spring record from Louisville was considered by Mengel (*The Birds of Kentucky* — 1965) to be hypothetical! Most records of stray Black-throated Gray Warblers in the eastern United States occur in late fall or winter.

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ALBINISTIC RUSTY BLACKBIRD IN KENTUCKY

A spectacularly albinistic Rusty Blackbird (*Euphagus carolinus*) was found while sampling the dead bird population in a blackbird roost kill in Russellville, Logan County, Kentucky. The roost had been treated with PA-14 (a surfactant) on March 12, 1984 by the Kentucky Research Station, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The bird was found in one of the randomly-selected 0.9 m² sample plots used to estimate the size of the kill.

The head of the bird was almost completely white, whereas both the dorsal and ventral sides of the body were extensively dappled (see photograph). The wings were mainly black except for the 8th, 9th, and part of the 10th primaries on one wing and the 7th and 8th primaries on the other. These feathers were either partially or completely white. One of the rectrices also had considerable white in it. The specimen was identified as a male weighing 64.5 g with one wing chord measuring 117 mm and the other 114 mm (North American Bird Bander 1:25-27, 1976). This bird was one of 11 Rusty Blackbirds found among the 1685 blackbirds (*Icterinae*) and Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) counted on 33 plots. The specimen is now housed at the Western Kentucky University Biology Department in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

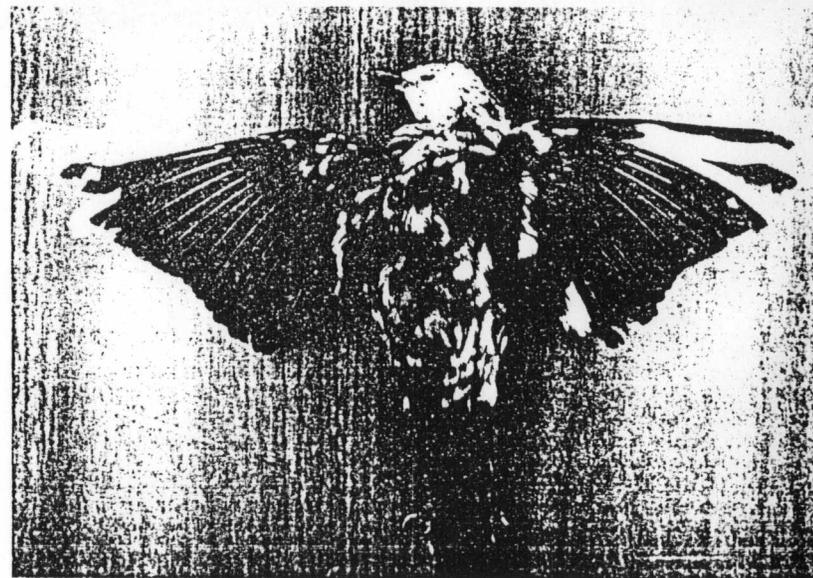
This is apparently the first albinistic Rusty Blackbird recorded in Kentucky. Allaire (Ky. Warbler 53:13-16, 1977) did not mention the species in his summary of Kentucky ornithological albinism cases, although

this aberration is not unknown in Rusty Blackbirds. (Bull. Nuttall Ornith. Club 4:27-30, 1879) records a "mottled" rusty from Detroit, Michigan, and Ross (Cassinia 47:2-21, 1963) mentions one museum specimen (U.S. National Museum) and two sight records of partially albino Rusty Blackbirds.

Although Gross (Bird-Banding 36:67-71, 1965) in his excellent summary of the incidence of albinism in North American birds did not mention Rusty Blackbirds *per se*, he numbered the family Icteridae (now subfamily Icterinae) among the 54% of the 93 North American bird families in which albinism had been recorded at that time. Of the 1847 individual albinism cases he compiled, Icterinae members comprised approximately 10% (188 individuals).

Several examples exist in the literature of relatively large percentages of individuals from isolated populations exhibiting varying degrees of albinism, presumably because the recessive gene for albinism was given a greater than usual opportunity for phenotypic display among inbred birds. Edson (The Auk 45: 377-378, 1928) recorded one such incident for Icterinae in Washington State where at least 40% of an estimated flock of 500 Brewer's Blackbirds (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*) exhibited substantial amounts of white. No such phenomenon was apparent among Rusty Blackbirds we examined in southcentral Kentucky in 1984. An additional 188 Rusty Blackbirds were found in sample plots following two other Russellville, Kentucky roost sprays in January and March 1984, but only the one bird mentioned here exhibited albinism.

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Albinistic Rusty Blackbird collected from a blackbird roost in Russellville, Logan County, Kentucky.