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The Kentucky Warbler

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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THE COVER

We thank Allan Claybon for the image of the adult male White-winged Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*) taken 14 January 2014 on the Ohio River at Covington, Kenton County, part of an unprecedented showing of the species during the late winter 2013-2014 (see p. 46). Financial support for color reproduction in this issue provided by the Daniel Boone National Forest.



WINTER 2013-2014 SEASON

Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and Lee McNeely

Climatic conditions during winter 2013-2014 definitely affected the avifauna in a significant way! Precipitation and temperature were normal to slightly above normal statewide during December, but during the first week of January, a shift in the “North Polar Vortex” ushered in extremely cold air that resulted in temperatures across the region that were lower than had been experienced in at least a decade. The colder-than-normal temperatures persisted well into February, resulting in mean average monthly temperatures of 4-7°F below normal at most recording stations. Precipitation during January was below normal at most stations, so although not much snow fell during the period, what did accumulate persisted on the ground for several weeks. February precipitation returned to above-normal across central Kentucky, resulting in a relatively brief appearance of the transient lakes from Warren County west to Trigg County. The persistence of cold and snow/ice cover apparently resulted in mortality of some birds, particularly Eastern Bluebirds.

Rarity highlights included Cinnamon Teal, Red-necked Grebe, Pomarine Jaeger, multiple Iceland and Great Black-backed Gulls, Snowy Owl, several continuing Rufous Hummingbirds, Prairie Falcon, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. The period of extremely cold weather resulted in the disappearance of all of the hummingbirds that were still present. However, it also was responsible for the appearance of Snow Buntings at several locales, as well as an unprecedented mid-winter flight of waterbirds off the Great Lakes that included White-winged Scoters and Long-tailed Ducks, as well as several interesting Larids. This flight continued into March and also will be reported on in the spring 2014 summary.

Publication of any unusual sightings in the seasonal report does not imply that these reports have been accepted for inclusion in the official checklist of Kentucky birds. Reports of out-of-season birds and rarities should be accompanied by written and/or photographic documentation. This documentation is reviewed by the Kentucky Bird Records Committee (KBRC). Decisions regarding the official Kentucky list are made by the KBRC and are reported periodically in *The Kentucky Warbler*.

Abbreviations – County names appear in *italics*; when used to separate dates, the “/” symbol is used in place of “and”; “ba” next to an observer’s initials indicates that the bird was banded; “ph.” next to an observer’s initials indicates that the observation was documented with photograph(s); “vr.” next to an observer’s initials indicates that the observation was documented with recordings of call notes; “+” next to an observer’s initials indicates that written details were submitted with the report; **Place names:** Ballard WMA, Ballard; Barkley Dam, Lyon (unless otherwise noted); Barren River Lake, Allen/Barren (unless otherwise noted); Blood River = Blood River embayment, Ky Lake, Calloway; Calvert City, Marshall; Cave Run Lake, Bath/Rowan; Cecilia, Hardin; Cedar Creek Lake, Lincoln; Chamberlain Lane, ne. Jefferson; CVG = Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky airport, Boone; Falls of the Ohio, Jefferson; Freeman Lake, Hardin; Gibraltar = former Gibraltar Mine, e. Muhlenberg; Green River Lake, Adair/Taylor (unless otherwise noted); Jacobson Park, Fayette; Jonathan Creek = Jonathan Creek embayment, Ky Lake, Marshall; Ken Unit, Peabody WMA, Ohio; Ky Dam = Kentucky Dam, Livingston/Marshall; Kentucky Dam Village SRP, Marshall; KDFWR = Ky. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources; Ky Lake = Kentucky Lake, Calloway/Marshall/Trigg; Lake Linville, Rockcastle; Lake Peewee, Hopkins; Lake Reba, Madison; LBL = Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, Lyon/Trigg; Lexington, Fayette; Long Point = Long Point Unit Reelfoot NWR, Fulton; Lower Hickman Bottoms, w. Fulton; Markland Dam, on the Ohio River, Gallatin; McElroy Lake, s. Warren; Meldahl Dam, on the Ohio River, Bracken; Minor Clark = Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan; mouth of the Licking River, Campbell/Kenton; NWR = National

Wildlife Refuge; Owsley Fork Lake, *Madison*; Pond Creek Bottoms, n. of KY 85 ne. of Anton, e. *Hopkins*; Reformatory Lake, nr. Buckner, *Oldham*; Sauerheber = Sauerheber Unit Sloughs WMA, *Henderson*; Sinclair Unit, Peabody WMA, *Muhlenberg*; Sledd Creek = Sledd Creek embayment of Ky Lake, *Marshall*; Spindletop Farm = University of Kentucky Spindletop Farm, *Fayette*; SNP = State Nature Preserve; SP = State Park; SRP = State Resort Park; Sugar Creek, *Gallatin*; Waitsboro = Waitsboro Recreation Area, Lake Cumberland, *Pulaski*; West Ky WMA, *McCracken*; WMA = Wildlife Management Area; Wolf Creek Dam, Lake Cumberland, *Russell*.

Greater White-fronted Goose – reports of interest (including local peak counts) included 2 at Conley Bottom Resort, Lake Cumberland, *Wayne*, 17 December (RD); 2500 at Sauerheber 20 December (CC) with a peak count of 5000 there during the third week of December (CP); 36 at the Reformatory Lake 8 January (ph. MY et al.) with 51 there 10 January (JSo, CS, et al.); 1 on the Licking River at Butler, *Pendleton*, 10 January (BD); 15 over Shaker Village, *Mercer*, 11 January (SP); 13 on Barren River Lake 4 February (BP, MY); 13 se. of Cedar Springs, *Allen*, 4 February (BP, MY); 2 at Osprey Cove Lake, *Shelby*, 23/27 January (KRi); 1 at the mouth of the Licking River 25 January (TC); 19 at Cave Run Lake 26 January–1 February (ph. BWu) with up to 30 there 20-21 February (ph. BWu) and 22 last seen there 23 February (BWu); 1 near Boston, *Nelson*, 29 January (EHu); up to 4 at Spindletop Farm during the first two weeks of February (ph. DL et al.) with 1 last seen there 19 February (MWr); 3 at Lake Linville 13-16 February (ph. RD, MD); 10 at Parsons Pond, *Logan*, 15 February (ph. FL); and 1 at Guthrie Swamp, *Todd*, 24 February (FL).

Snow Goose – modest peak counts included a high count of 8000 at Sauerheber during the second week of December (CP) with ca. 2000 over Sauerheber 25 December (JM); and ca. 5000 at Long Point 27-28 December (SRo, MRi) and 19 January (SZ).

Ross's Goose – reports of interest included at least 3 n. of Needmore, *Ballard*, 17 December (BP, EHu, RCr); 1 at Gibraltar 29 December (ph. BP); 1 at the KDFWR headquarters, *Franklin*, 29-30 December (GSp); 1 at the Reformatory Lake 8/10 January (BP et al.); 1 at Calvert City 12

January (BP, CS, JSo); 2 at Spindletop Farm 7-20 February (ph. CF et al.); 1 at Lake Reba 17 February (JSo); 1 at Freeman Lake 7 February (SK, JKi); 1 at McElroy Lake 9-10 February (TD) with an impressive tally of 13 there 21 February (TD); 1 on the Ohio River above Meldahl Dam 14 February (SF); 1 at Vernon Bottoms, *Monroe*, 15 February (MB, JBy); and 2 near Hundred Acre Pond, *Hart*, 19 February (JSo).

Cackling Goose – reports of interest included 5 at Sledd Creek 12/14 December (BP/HC, ME); at least 6 on the Reformatory Lake 4 January (BWo) with 10-12 there 8 January (BP et al.) and a peak count of at least 28 there 9 February (BP, MaS); 1 s. of Petersburg, *Boone*, 9 January (BP, EHu); 15 at Spindletop Farm 26 January (ph. CF) with 1-8 there to 16 February (m. ob.); and 4 at Lake Linville 11 February (JSo, CM) with 6 there 13/15 February (ph. RD).

Canada Goose – local peak counts of interest included 4000 at Lexington Reservoir #4 on 31 January (RO) and 3000 at Spindletop Farm 4 February (DL).

Mute Swan – small numbers showed up on a number of bodies of water during mid-to late January; reports of interest included 12 on the Ohio River above Meldahl Dam 2 February (JF) with 13 in the same area 12 February (BP); a total of 22 (most in KY waters) along the Ohio River within the first few miles upstream of Markland Dam 10 February (BP); 6 at Vernon Bottoms, *Monroe*, 15 February (MB, JBy); and 3 on Taylorsville Lake, *Anderson*, 17 February (BWo).

Tundra Swan – numbers were not as high at Sauerheber this winter, likely due to the frigid weather; ca. 75 were present there

during December with a peak count of 115 during the first week of January (CP), with 8 still at Sauerheber and ca. 30 on the sloughs along Horseshoe Road, w. *Henderson*, both 22 February (SG, TG); other reports of interest included 2 on Cave Run Lake 3 December (BWu) with 12 overhead there 7 December (BWu); 17 on Lake Cumberland at Mystic View Road, *Wayne*, 8 December (ph. RD); up to 6 at Stephensburg, *Hardin*, during December (CL, ph. BP, et al.) with 5 last seen there 31 December (JSo); 3 on Walton's Pond, s. *Warren*, 15-30 December (TD); 3 at the Sinclair Unit 29 December (SG, TG, BP); 5 in the Pond River Bottoms 11 January (MY, BY, et al.); 1 on Lake Reba 9 February (ph. CF); and 5 on the Ohio River at Warsaw, *Gallatin*, 10 February (ph. BP) with surely the same 5 at the mouth of Craig's Creek, *Gallatin*, 17 February (LM).

American Wigeon – at least 120 at Sauerheber 20 December (BP) represented a modest peak count for the season.

American Black Duck – an aerial survey of 1480 total across the ne. part of the state 7 January (JBr) and ca. 200 on Cave Run Lake 1 February (BWu) represented the season's peak counts.

Cinnamon Teal – a male was on McElroy Lake 12-15 February (†TD, ph. BF, et al.). KBRC review required.

Mallard x Northern Pintail – a male was present near Blue Pond, w. *Fulton*, 8 February (†BWu, BP).

Northern Pintail – local peak counts included 60 at Sauerheber 20 January (KMt); ca. 175 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 8 February (BWu, BP); 24 on Green River Lake, *Taylor*, and 66 on Barren River Lake, both 15 February (BP, MA); and 55 on McElroy Lake 23 February (BP et al.).

Green-winged Teal – local peak counts of interest included 85 on Cave Run Lake 7 December (BWu) and 86 on Lentz Pond along River Road, *Jefferson*, 24 February (BP).

Canvasback – local peak counts of interest included 105 on the Ohio River above Uniontown Dam, *Union*, 10 January (CC); at least 110 on the Ohio River at Louisville (BP, EHu) and 122 on Cave Run Lake (BWu), both 26 January; at least 400 total in scattered flocks from just upstream of Markland Dam to just upstream from the mouth of Sugar Creek 10 February (BP); 350-400 on the Ohio River from upstream of Meldahl Dam to upstream of Augusta, *Bracken*, 12 February (BP); and 70 on McElroy Lake 23 February (BP et al.).

Redhead – local peak counts included 140 at Waitsboro 8 December (RD); a remarkable total of at least 900 in a mixed flock of 3000+ waterfowl above Wolf Creek Dam 9 December (RD, SD); at least 60 on the Ohio River at Louisville 26 January (BP); 100 on Owsley Fork Lake 2 February (RF, RB) with 200 there 28 February (RF, RB); 100+ on the Ohio River upstream from Markland Dam 10 February (BP); 150 on Lake Linville 11 February (JSo, CM) with 200 there 13 February (RD); 75-100 on the Ohio River from upstream of Meldahl Dam to upstream of Augusta, *Bracken*, 12 February (BP); 50 at Spindletop Farm 15 February (DL) with 76 there 17 February (JSo); 300 on Barren River Lake 16 February (SK et al.) with 350 there 28 February (MB, JBy); 200 on Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 18 February (RD); 75 on Osprey Cove Lake, *Shelby*, 21/27 February (AM); and 165 on McElroy Lake and 185 on Walton Pond, *Warren*, both 23 February (BP et al.).

Ring-necked Duck – local peak counts included 150 at Spindletop Farm 3 January (JSo) with 110 there 14 February (JSo); 150 on Owsley Fork Lake 2 February (RF, RB); and 80 on Lake Linville 11 February (JSo, CM).

Greater Scaup – numbers increased dramatically during mid-January with at least 100 on the Ohio River at Louisville by 3 February (BP), and more than 100 lingered there through the month with peak counts of at least 255 there 11 February

(BP et al.) and 270 there 14 February (BP et al.); other reports of interest included at least 125 from just upstream of Markland Dam to just upstream from the mouth of Sugar Creek 10 February (BP); and at least 250-300 on the Ohio River from upstream of Meldahl Dam to the mouth of Straight Creek, OH, *Bracken*, 12 February (BP) with 191 still in the same area the following day (BWu).

Lesser Scaup – peak counts included 130 at Waitsboro 8 December (RD) and at least 500 above Wolf Creek Dam 9 December (RD, SD); the species actually became difficult to find on the Ohio River during February (m. ob.).

Surf Scoter – there were at least nine reports: 1 on the Ohio River at Louisville 7 December (DS, BP et al.); 3 above Wolf Creek Dam and 1 on Lake Cumberland at Rowena Road, *Russell*, both 9 December (RD, SD); 1 at the mouth of the Licking River 11-18 January (BZ, et al.); 1 on Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 11 January (ph. RD); a pair on the Ohio River at Louisville 26 January (BP et al.); an ad. male with one of the larger flocks of White-wingeds on the Ohio River at Louisville 9 February into March (BP, BWu, et al.); 3 on Freeman Lake, *Hardin*, 11 February (RH); and an ad. male on the Ohio River opposite Rabbit Hash, *Boone*, 16 February (JSt).

White-winged Scoter – a few birds were found during early winter, but an unprecedented flight commenced during the third week of January and continued into February. The larger groups smashed previous record high counts for the state, and also provide credence for a January 1971 report of 40 on the Ohio River, *Bracken*, that has heretofore been regarded as not sufficiently documented. On the Ohio River at Louisville 3 were present 8 January (DS, ph. BP, et al.) with 1 continuing to 24 January (m. ob.) when another 7 were first noted just upstream from downtown (SW, MK); numbers soon increased with 14 total present 26 January (BP, EH, et al.), 50 there by 30 January (BP, DS, EH, et al.) and 56 there by 31 January

(BP), but 116 counted in several flocks 9 February (BP, BWu) and peak counts of 145 counted in several flocks 11 February (BP et al.) and 158 counted in several flocks 14 February (BP et al.); numbers began to diminish thereafter, but some were still present into March (m. ob.). A summary of all additional reports follows: 5 on Cave Run Lake 7 December (ph. BWu) with 1 there 27 December (BWu, BP, EH, MRU); 1 on Clifty Pond, *Pulaski*, 9 December (ph. RD, SD); 2 at the mouth of the Licking River 11-20 January (BZ, ph. BWu, et al.) with 10 in that vicinity 27 January (JE); 2 on the Ohio River at Dayton, *Campbell*, 12 January (JF) with 1 there 29 January (FR), 3 there 14 February (BWu, BH), 39 there 15 February (BWu), and 38 there 18 February (FR); 2 on the Ohio River at Catlettsburg, *Boyd*, 31 January (CT) with 3 there 14 February (CT); 2 below Carr Creek Dam, *Knott*, 1-4 February (BGo); 4 on Lake Peewee 7 February (BP, BWu); 2 above Wolf Creek Dam 9 February (ph. RD); 56 total in three flocks from just upstream of Markland Dam to upstream of the mouth of Sugar Creek 10 February (BP) with 11 still on the Ohio River at Craig's Creek, *Gallatin*, 17 February (LM); 1 found dead near the Sinclair Unit 10 February (EWs); 1 on Lake Linville 11 February (JSo, CM) with a peak count of 5 there 13 February (RD) and 2 still there 17 February (JSo, CS); 13 on the Ohio River upstream from Rabbit Hash, *Boone*, 11 February (IH) with 17 there 13 February (ph. RCr) and 18 there 15-17 February (LM, ph. RCr); 3 on the Ohio River at Chilo Park, OH, *Bracken*, 27 January/16 February (KR/EB) with 7 there 17 February (SC); 27 total, mostly in small groups with other diving ducks [largest flock being 12], on the Ohio River from above Meldahl Dam to upstream of Augusta, *Bracken*, 12 February (BP); 52 total (flocks of 7/20/25) on the Ohio River, *Boone/Gallatin*, 16 February (JSt); at least 12 on the Ohio River downstream of Higginsport, OH, *Bracken*, 23 February (DoM, KMa); and 3 on Barren River Lake 28 February (MB, JBy).

Black Scoter – there were four reports: a female/imm. continued on the Ohio River at Louisville from November to 26 January (m. ob.); also reported were 2 additional birds on the Ohio River at Louisville and 1 on the Ohio River above Markland Dam, both 7 December (BP); and 2 on Ky Lake off Sherwood Shores, *Marshall*, 30 December (BP).

Long-tailed Duck – a few were noted early in the season, but a pronounced flight commenced during the second week of February (a couple of weeks after the White-winged Scoters showed up). A summary of all reports follows: 1 continuing on Lake Linville from November with 2 there 1-2 December and 1 lingering there to 10 December (ph. NH, RD) and 2 there again 13 February (RD) with 1 lingering there to 17 February (m. ob.); 1 on Lake Barkley, *Lyon*, 3 December (WD, *fide* KK); 3 above Wolf Creek Dam 9 December (ph. RD, SD); an ad. male on Ky Lake, *Marshall*, 12-31 December (BP, HC, ME); 1 on the Ohio River at Louisville 26 January (EHu et al.) with 2 imms. there 30 January–12 February (m. ob.) with an ad. male joining them 12 February (DS et al.), but 9 there 24 February (ph. EHu et al.) and 7 there 25 February (DS et al.); 1 on the Ohio River at Catlettsburg, *Boyd*, 2 February (VS); an ad. male at the KDFWR headquarters, *Franklin*, 5-6 February (GSp, ph. DB); 1 at the mouth of the Licking River 11-15 February (EB et al.); 2 on the Ohio River upstream from Meldahl Dam, 2 ad. males on the Ohio River downstream from the mouth of Bullsken Creek, OH, *Bracken*, 4 on the Ohio River just downstream from Augusta, *Bracken*, and 6 on the Ohio River below Ripley, OH, *Mason*, all 12 February (BP); 6 still on the Ohio River below Ripley, OH, *Mason*, 13 February (BWu); 1 on Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 16/17 February (WB/TD); 1 on the Ohio River at Chilo Park, OH, *Bracken*, 17 February (TC et al.); 5 on the Ohio River at Augusta, *Bracken*, 18 February (BD); and 2 on Owsley Fork Lake 28 February (RF, RB).

Bufflehead – local peak counts included 98 total on the Ohio River at Louisville 7

December (BP); 143 at Waitsboro and 50 on Lake Cumberland at Conley Bottom Resort, *Wayne*, both 8 December (RD); 100 above Wolf Creek Dam 9 December (RD, SD); and 142 total on Ky Lake, *Calloway*, 27 December (HC).

Common Goldeneye – local peak counts included 283 on Ky Lake, *Marshall*, 14 December (HC, ME); 87 on the Ohio River at Louisville 14 February (BP et al.); 40 on Lake Linville 15 February (RD); and 150-200 total on the Ohio River from Meldahl Dam upstream to the mouth of Straight Creek, OH, *Bracken*, 12 February (BP).

Hooded Merganser – local peak counts included 160 at Jacobson Park 1/9 December (RO) with 150 nearby on Lexington Reservoir #4 on 31 January (RO); 135 on a gravel pit s. of Petersburg, *Boone*, 15 December (JKa); and 150 on Lake Peewee 17 December (CC) with 265 there 7 February (BP, BWu).

Common Merganser – there was an average presence early in the season, but a significant number arrived during early February, especially on the Ohio River upstream from Cincinnati, OH. Local peak counts included 15 on Honker Bay, LBL, *Lyon*, 19 December (HC, ME); 3-4 on Lake Peewee 30 December (BP)–7 February (BP, BWu); 21 on Cave Run Lake 1 February (BWu); 36 on Barren River Lake nw. of The Narrows boat dock, *Barren*, 4 February (BP, MY); 12 on the Reformatory Lake 13 February (MC); 450-500 total, mostly at and near the mouths of creeks, on the Ohio River from Meldahl Dam upstream to the mouth of Straight Creek, OH, *Bracken*, 12 February (BP); 5 on Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 15 December (JSo) with 29 there 15 February (BP, MA, JSo, CS) and 21 on the lake at Corbin Bend, *Adair/Taylor*, 18 February (RD); 8 on Lake Linville 13 February (RD) with 27 there 17 February (JSo, CS); 8 on Lexington Reservoir #3 on 15 February (MT); 15 on Owsley Fork Lake 17 February (JSo, CS); 7 on McElroy Lake 17 February (TD); and 3 on Freeman Lake 22 February (m. ob.).

- Red-breasted Merganser** – as is the norm, peak numbers of fall migrants passed through during December, but a second flight occurred during February. A summary of highlights follows: 100 total on Green River Lake, *Adair*, 7 December (RD); 150 at Waitsboro and 75 on Lake Cumberland, *Wayne* (RD), and 325 on Cave Run Lake (BWu), all 8 December; 800 above Wolf Creek Dam, with additional flocks of up to 53 on other portions of Lake Cumberland, *Russell/Wayne*, 9 December (RD, SD); 22 above Wolf Creek Dam 9 February (RD); 50+ on the Ohio River from Meldahl Dam upstream to the mouth of Straight Creek, OH, *Bracken*, 12 February (BP); 20 on Lake Linville 13 February with 27 there 15 February (RD et al.); ca. 20 on Lexington Reservoir #3 on 15 February (MT); 37 on Green River Lake at Corbin Bend, *Adair/Taylor*, 18 February (RD) with 50 on Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 22 February (BD); 35 on Cave Run Lake 20 February (BWu); and 16 on Lexington Reservoir #4 on 22 February (RO, ASK).
- Common Loon** – local peak counts included 82 on Cave Run Lake 8 December (BWu) and 53 total on Lake Cumberland, *Russell/Wayne*, 9 December (RD, SD).
- Pied-billed Grebe** – local peak counts included 112 on Lake Peewee 30 December (BP); 223 on Green River Lake 31 December (JSo, EHu) with up to 125 on Green River Lake, *Taylor*, during mid-February (RD, MA, et al.); and 40 on Lake Reba 4 January (CF).
- Horned Grebe** – local peak counts included 68 at Waitsboro 8 December (RD); 145 total on Lake Cumberland, *Wayne/Russell*, 9 December (RD, SD); 254 on Ky Lake, *Marshall*, 14 December (HC, ME); ca. 75 on Cave Run Lake 27 December (BP, EHu, BWu, MRu); 189 on Green River Lake 31 December (JSo, EHu); and at least 250 on the Ohio River at Louisville 9 January (JSo, CS).
- Red-necked Grebe** – there were two reports: 1 continuing from November on Cave Run Lake 3 December (BWu) and 5 on Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 22 February (†DH).
- American White Pelican** – small numbers lingered on Lake Barkley and Ky Lake through the winter despite the cold weather; also reported was 1 at Long Point 27 December (MRi, SRO) with 2 there 31 January (HC, ME).
- Black-crowned Night-Heron** – up to 4 wintered again near the mouth of the Little Sandy River, *Greenup* (CT, VS), and at least 1 wintered again at Draut Park, Louisville (BWo).
- Northern Harrier** – at least 22 in the Pond River Bottoms 14 December (BP) represented the peak count for the season.
- Bald Eagle** – a new nest was reported at Cedar Creek Lake (TNa).
- Rough-legged Hawk** – there were reports from at least eight locales: 1-2 at CVG 1 December–28 February (JSt, ph. RCr, KH, et al.); 1 at the East Volunteer Mine, *Hopkins*, 11/12 December (BP/RD); 1 along I-24, s. *Christian*, 11 December (BL); 2 in the Pond Creek Bottoms 12 December (MY et al.); 1 on the Lexington CBC 14 December (*vide* DL); 1 n. of Oscar, *Ballard*, 24 December (BP, EHu); at least 2 on and adjacent to the Ken Unit 29 December (EHu, MSt) through most of January (MRi, SRO, et al.); 1 along I-64, *Woodford*, 3 January (JSo); 1 near Rabbit Hash, *Boone*, 4 January (LM); and 1 at the Sinclair Unit 9 February (ph. TG).
- Golden Eagle** – there were ten reports: a juv. along Pointer Creek Road, *Pulaski*, 4 December (RD, SD); 1 first observed at Bernheim Forest, *Bullitt/Nelson*, 10 December (KV) with a remarkable tally of possibly up to 9 different individuals through the season as identified on trail cam photos (KV); a juv. at Ballard WMA 17 December (ph. RCr et al.); an ad. or sub. ad. in the Pond Creek Bottoms 19 December/11 January (†RD/MY, BY); an ad. se of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 24 December (MB); a juv. at Gibraltar 29 December (BP); a sub-ad. se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 20 January (MB); and a juv. over Minor Clark 19 February (BWu). Also, two birds

affixed with radio transmitters that are being monitored by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency were tracked to various sites in Kentucky as follows: 1) nw. of Wesleyville, *Carter*, 25 December (SSo), and 2) to s. of Mt. Pisgah, extreme se. *Wayne*, 20 December (SSo), to Green River Lake 25-26 December, to Ft. Knox, *Hardin*, 27-29 December; and to the vicinity of Round Knob, extreme s. *Nelson*, 31 December-4 January (SSo).

Virginia Rail – there were reports from four locales: 3 heard at Long Point 14 December (BP et al.); 3 heard at the Ken Unit 28 December (BP); and 4 heard at Gibraltar and 1 heard e. of Drakesboro, *Muhlenberg*, all 29 December (BP).

American Coot – local peak counts included ca. 1900 still on Cave Run Lake 8 December (BWu); 236 on Cedar Creek Lake 6 January (RD) with 200 still there 8 February (RD); and 150 on Lake Reba 17 February (JSO).

Sandhill Crane – at Barren River Lake 3700+ were present by 2 December (WT et al.) with 9200 there 9 December (WT et al.), 8100+ there 16 December (WT), only 750 there 23 December (WT et al.), nearly 8500 there 7 January (WT et al.), and nearly 10,000 there 21 January (WT et al.), with new state high counts of 18,250 there 3 February (WT et al.) and 24,185 there 10/11 February (WT et al.), but only 1830 there 18 February (WT et al.); at Cecilia 200-250 were present 11 December (BP) with ca. 3900 there 21 January (EHa), and another new state high count of 22,000 there 18 February (EHa) with 15,475 there 24 February (EHa). Other reports of interest included ca. 1400 near Hodgenville, *Larue*, 21 January (EHa) with ca. 2100 there 27 January (EHa); ca. 300 at the Reformatory Lake 8 January (BP et al.); 2000 at McElroy Lake 12 February (TD); and 8500+ flying north se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 11 February (MB). A color-banded bird seen at the Reformatory Lake 10 January was banded as an imm. in *Lake*, IL, July 2011 (*vide* JFo); 2 color-banded birds at Cecilia 22 February (BP

et al.) had been banded in s.-cen. WI (AG).

Least Sandpiper – small numbers lingered at Blood River and Jonathan Creek into late January (HC); also reported were 8 at Guthrie Swamp, *Todd*, 1 January (ph. FL);

Western Sandpiper – very unusual for the winter season was 1 at Blood River 25 January (ph. HC).

American Woodcock – the severe winter weather resulted in a delay in the appearance of numbers of courting birds until the last week of February (m. ob.).

Pomarine Jaeger – a sub-ad. was present at Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 14-22 February (ph. RD et al.). KBRC review required.

Bonaparte's Gull – local peak counts included at least 400 total at Minor Clark and Cave Run Lake 8 December (BWu); 2400 on Ky Lake, *Marshall*, 14 December (HC, ME); 200 above Wolf Creek Dam 16 December (RD); 450+ at Barkley Dam 23 December (BP, EHu); at least 1100 at Barren River Lake 25 December (BP); 1134 on Ky Lake, *Calloway*, 27 December (HC); and 200 on Lake Cumberland at the Slate Branch boat ramp, *Pulaski*, 7 February (RD).

Ring-billed Gull – local peak counts included at least 2650 total at Minor Clark and Cave Run Lake 8 December (BWu) with ca. 2400 there 12 December (BWu) and 1800 there 19 January (BWu); 1500 at Waitsboro 9 December (RD, SD); ca. 5000 on Ky Lake above the dam 10 December (JSO) with more than 7500 in the dams vicinity 7-8 February (BWu, BP); at least 1000 at Barren River Lake 25 December (BP) with 3000 there 28 February (MB, JBy); 2470 at Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 31 December (JSO, EHu) with at least 1000 there during mid-February (RD et al.); and 1000 above Wolf Creek Dam 9 February (RD).

Herring Gull – local peak counts included 22 at both Waitsboro and on Lake Cumberland at Conley Bottom Resort, *Wayne*, 8 December (RD); at least 300 in the vic-



Prairie Falcon, *Hopkins*
16 December 2013
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.



Iceland Gull (w/ Herring Gulls) Ky Dam Village
16 February 2014
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.



Indigo Bunting, *Pulaski*
1 January 2014
Roseanna Denton



Great Black-backed Gull, Barkley Dam
24 December 2013
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.



Western Meadowlark, *Warren*
23 February 2014
Mary Yandell



Long-tailed Duck, *Franklin*
5 February 2014
Dave Baker



Marsh Wren, *Muhlenberg*
29 December 2013
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.



White-crowned Sparrow (Gambell's race), *Lawrence*
26 December 2013
Eddie Huber



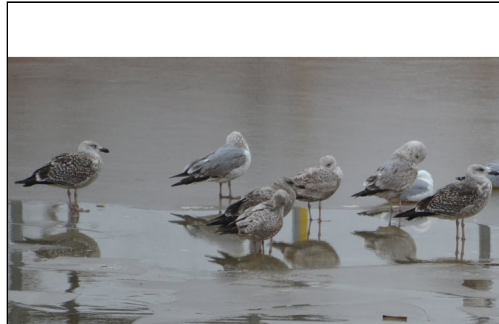
Surf Scoter w/ White-winged Scoter, *Jefferson*
9 February 2014
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.



Pomarine Jaeger, *Taylor*
18 February 2014
Roseanna Denton



Snow Buntings, *Jefferson*
7 February 2014
Eddie Huber



Great Black-backed Gulls (2) w/ Herring Gulls
Bracken, 16 February 2014
Jonathan Frodge

inity of Ky Dam 23 December (BP, EHu) with more than 700 there and 500 at Barkley Dam 7-8 February (BP, BWu); 12 at Cave Run Lake 26 January (BWu); at least 20 at Barren River Lake 4 February (BP, MY); 38 above Wolf Creek Dam 4 February (RD) with 58 there 9 February (RD); 12-15 at Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 15 February (BP, EHu); and 42 on the Ohio River at Craig's Creek, *Gallatin* (JSt), and at least 110 at Meldahl Dam (JF, SFg, BWu), both 16 February.

Thayer's Gull – there were reports from three locales: an ad. at Ky Dam 23 December (ph. BP, ph. EHu); an ad. at Calvert City 12 January (BP) with a second-year bird below Ky Dam 12 January (BP, JSo, CS); at least 1 first-year bird at Ky Dam 7-8 February (BP, p. BWu); and single adults at both Barkley Dam and at Ky Dam Village 12 February (HC).

Thayer's Gull x Iceland Gull – a likely intergrade first-year bird was seen below Barkley Dam 12 January (ph. BP, JSo, CS, BY) and 7/8 February (BP, BWu/BP, BWu, BY), and a second likely intergrade first-year bird seen above Ky Dam 7/8 February (†BP, BWu/BP, BWu, BY).

Iceland Gull – there were at least two birds reported: a first-year bird below Ky Dam 12 January (ph. BP, JSo, CS) with perhaps a different individual there 24 January (HC, ME); and a first-year bird above Ky Dam 7 February (BP, BWu) with likely the same bird seen at Ky Dam Village 16 February (ph. BP, MA). KBRC review required.

Lesser Black-backed Gull – several birds continued in the vicinity of Ky Dam and Barkley Dam through the season as follows: a first-year bird at Ky Dam 12/23 December (BP, EHu); 2 ad. or third-year birds at Ky Dam 23 December (BP, EHu); 3 ads. or third-year birds at Sledd Creek 12 January (BP, JSo, CS); an ad. at Barkley Dam 7 February (BP, BWu); 2 ads. and a first-year bird at Ky Dam 7 February (BP, BWu); and at least 6 total in the vicinity of Ky Dam and Barkley Dam 8 February (BP, BWu, BY) with 4 in the same area 16 February (BP, MA). Also

reported were a second-year bird at the Falls of the Ohio 14 February (†BP et al.); an ad. at Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 15/16 February (ph. BP, MA, JSo, CS/RD); and an ad. at Meldahl Dam (ph. EB) and a first-year bird at Markland Dam (JSt), both 16 February.

Great Black-backed Gull – there were reports from five locales: a first-year bird at Barkley Dam 24/30 December (ph. BP, ph. EHu/BP) with presumably the same bird above the dam 7/8 February (ph. BWu, BP/ BWu, BP, BY) and perhaps below Ky Dam 16/19 February (ph. BP, MA/HC); a first-year bird on the Ohio River at Louisville 27 January (†MA); an ad. at the mouth of the Licking River 2 February (ph. EB); and a first-year bird at Meldahl Dam 14/15 February (SFi/TC) with 2 first-year birds there 16 February (ph. JF, SFg).

Glaucous Gull – there were reports from three locales: a first-year bird at Calvert City 24 December (ph. BP, EHu)–15 January (JSo); a first-year bird at Ky Dam 26 January (HC)–7 February (ph. BWu, BP); and a first-year bird at Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 15 February (†BP, MA) that was the first to be reported in the state away from the large reservoirs in western Kentucky and the Ohio River.

Forster's Tern – as is the norm, small numbers lingered at Blood River into late December (HC et al.).

Barn Owl – there were four reports: 2 at a traditional territory in sw. *Logan* 14 December (FL); 1 at a traditional territory in e. *Calloway* 27 December (HC); 1 on the Ken Unit 28-29 December (BP); and 1 outside Harrodsburg, *Mercer*, during late January (CD, *fide* GD).

Snowy Owl – the bird found at the Louisville International Airport during late November was last seen 3 December (ph. KT, †BP); another individual was present along the Snyder Freeway, ne. *Jefferson*, 24-27 December (ph. LY) but found to be in poor health and subsequently captured; unfortunately, the bird died during rehabilitation efforts (EWr).

- Short-eared Owl** – there were reports from 15 locales: 2 continuing at Schochoh, *Logan*, into early December with 1 last seen there 26 December (ST et al.); 1 at the Louisville International Airport 7 December (BP); up to 5 at the Sinclair Unit during the period (P&SF et al.); up to 10 (19 December) at Parsons Pond, *Logan*, 3 December–4 January (ph. FL et al.); 1 along Harley-Thompson Road, *Shelby*, 19 December (PS); 2–4 along Bliss Road sw. of Columbia, *Adair*, 25–28 December (DC, RD); 1–4 s. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 18 December through February (MB, JBy, RuS, et al.); 1 along Schuler Lane, *Oldham*, 27 December (ph. PB, JBe); 1–2 along Horntown Road, e. *Grayson*, 10 December (SK, JKi)–4 January (JSo et al.); at least 1 in the Pond Creek Bottoms 7 February (BP, BWu) with at least 7 there 12 December (MY, BY, BP); 1–2 at Spindletop Farm 10–17 February (JSo et al.); 1–2 at CVG during early to mid-February (LM) with 5 there 26 February (HW) and 4 there 27 February (JR); 2 along Chamberlain Lane 16 February (PS); 1 nw. of Hansbrough, *Hardin*, 19 February (BP, EL); and 3 on the Letcher Tract of Clay WMA, *Nicholas*, 28 February (SFr).
- Rufous Hummingbird** – the ad. male banded at Lexington was last seen 5 December (DB); the imm. female banded at Winchester, *Clark*, was last seen 24 December (B&RE); the imm. male banded near Berea, *Madison*, was last seen 27 December (BS); an ad. female present all fall (banded 4 December) at Henderson, *Henderson*, lingered to 5 January (EMa, ba. BP); an ad. female present since mid-October (banded 19 December) sw. of Campbellsville, *Taylor*, lingered to 6 January (JBa, KL, ba. BP); and the two returning ad. females in *Barren* (L&RY) and *Hart* (MiS), both lingered to 6 January.
- Selasphorus sp.** – the identity of at least 3 additional birds could not be confirmed: 1 near Utica, *Daviess*, during early December (RiS); 1 n. of Somerset, *Pulaski*, from fall to 6 January (AS, ph. BP); and at least 1 bird s. of Greenville, *Muhlenberg*, from fall to 6 January (ph. GSn).
- Red-headed Woodpecker** – good numbers wintered in the vicinity of American Beech trees in the e. part of the state (SFr).
- Merlin** – there were reports from 11 locales: probably at least 2 at the Sinclair Unit through the season with an impressive tally of 5 there 18 January (BP, MA); 1 in the Pond Creek Bottoms 11/12 December (BP, JSo, et al./RD) with 2 there 11 January (MY, BY, et al.); 1 at Wilmore, *Jessamine*, 18 December (SP); 1 along Springdale Road, ne. *Jefferson*, 5 January (SSe); 1 nw. of Boston, *Nelson*, 11 January (BP, BBC); 1 at Cox's Park, Louisville, 14 January (EH)/26 February (ph. KB); 1 along Tunnel Mill Road s. of Bloomfield, *Nelson*, 19 January (ph. DMy); 1 at Merry Oaks, *Barren*, 24 January (TD); 1 at Jacobson Park 1 February (SP); 1 at McElroy Lake 14 February (TD); and 1 at Spindletop Farm 15 February (ph. DL).
- Peregrine Falcon** – reports of birds away from traditional breeding territories included wintering individuals at Ky Dam and at the US 68/KY80 bridge over Lake Barkley, *Trigg*, during the season (m. ob.); also reported were a juv. over Ballard WMA 17 December (HC, BP, et al.); 1 at Spindletop Farm 4 February (DL); 1 at McElroy Lake 21 February (TD); and 1 along the Green River at Figgett Bend, *Hart*, 25 February (JSo).
- Prairie Falcon** – 1 was present in the Pond River Bottoms 11 December (ph. BP et al.)–11 January (BP, JSo, et al.). KBRC review required.
- Fish Crow** – 2 returned to Blood River by 25 February (HC).
- Tree Swallow** – 2 s. of Glendale, *Hardin* (CE), and 2 at Allensville, *Todd* (DH), both 22 February, were the earliest to be reported with birds reported at several locales the following day.
- Cave Swallow/Cliff Swallow** – an unidentified, pale-rumped swallow was seen at

Green River Lake at Holmes Bend, *Adair*, 7 December (†RD).

Black-capped Chickadee – 1 was banded at Ashland, *Boyd*, 26 December (ba./†RCa). KBRC review required.

Red-breasted Nuthatch – the species was particularly scarce this winter with only 1-3 reported on 12 CBCs.

Brown-headed Nuthatch – birds continued at Ky Dam Village during the season with 4 confirmed there 8 February (BWu, BP).

House Wren – there were an unprecedented number of reports, all being included: single birds along both Goose Creek and Beargrass Creek, *Jefferson*, 15 December (MWa); 2 at different locales in *Wayne* on the CBC 17 December (†RD); singles e. of Hodgenville, *Larue* (†MA), and at Yatesville Lake WMA, *Lawrence* (†BP, EHu), both 26 December; 1 heard calling near Ano, *Pulaski*, 27 December (†RD); 1 at Gibraltar 29 December (ph. BP); 1 near Mt. Zion, *Pulaski* (†RD) and 2 at Lake Cumberland WMA, *Pulaski*, (†RD, SD), all 1 January; 1 at LBL, *Trigg*, 8 January (†BL); and 1 s. of Smiths Grove, *Warren*, 23 February (AH).

Sedge Wren – there was one report: 1 along Bethel Church Road, w. *McCracken*, 17 December (BP, EHu, RCr, SRe).

Marsh Wren – there were two reports: 1 at Gibraltar 29 December (ph. BP) and 1 se. of Shepherdsville, *Bullitt*, 4 January (†MA, ph. MY, et al.).

Hermit Thrush – impressive tallies included a new state record high count of 56 at Yatesville Lake WMA, *Lawrence*, 26 December (BP, EHu) and 33 at West Ky WMA 30 December (DAk, KMc).

Brown Thrasher – 10 at Yatesville Lake WMA, *Lawrence*, 26 December (BP, EHu) represented a relatively impressive tally for winter.

Cedar Waxwing – the species was relatively scarce early in the season, when only 1-177 were reported on 20 CBCs; however, after mid-January waxwings were essentially absent through the remainder of the late winter.

Lapland Longspur – reports of interest included 25 in extreme s. *Todd* 5 December (RuS); at least 10 at Spindletop Farm 10 December (BP) with small numbers present there from early January to mid-February with peak counts of ca. 200 there 8 January (RO) and up to about 50 there during early February (m. ob.); at least 120 in the Pond River Bottoms 11 December (BP) with 75 there 16 December (BP, EHu); ca. 300 s. of Petersburg, *Boone*, 15-16 December (BP, EHu) with 150-200 there 9 January (BP, EHu); 115 w. of Murray, *Calloway*, 2 January (HC); at least 100 at the Reformatory Lake 8 January (BP et al.); small numbers present along Chamberlain Lane from early January to mid-February with a peak count of ca. 75 there 6 February (JBe, PB, et al.); ca. 200 sw. of Owensboro, *Daviess*, 8 January (DAy); ca. 150 at Ft. Campbell, *Christian*, 5 February (DaM); 50 along KY 99, sw. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 6 February (MB); ca. 350 w. of Woodburn, *Warren*, 7 February (TD); and ca. 600 in farmland e. of Cedar Creek Lake 8 February (RD).

Snow Bunting – the species was reported at nine locales: 1 at CVG 15 December (†HW); at least 2 at the Reformatory Lake 8 January (BP et al.); at least 4 s. of Petersburg, *Boone*, 9 January (BP, EHu); at least 52 along Chamberlain Lane 6 February (JBe, PB, et al.) with peak counts of nearly 90 there 7 February (ph. MY et al.) and at least 97 there 8 February (ph. MY et al.), 40 still there 9 February (m. ob.), and 15 last seen there 17 February (JBe, PB); at least 26 at Spindletop Farm 7 February (ph. CF et al.) with a peak count of ca. 30 there 8 February (DL) and 8 last seen there 16 February (TNo, LC); at least 1 ne. of Cynthiana, *Harrison*, 9 February (SM); at least 3 along US 27 ca. 2 mi. n. of the *Fayette* line, *Bourbon*, 9 February (SM); at least 1 e. of Ellis Park, *Henderson*, 10 February (ph. SG, TG); and 5 along Steele Bottom Road, *Gallatin*, 17 February (LM).

Orange-crowned Warbler – 1 was present in a yard at Murray, *Calloway*, 28 January (ph. RU).

- Common Yellowthroat** – 1 female was seen at Yatesville Lake WMA, *Lawrence*, 26 December (EHu, †BP).
- Palm Warbler** – remarkable tallies of 21 and 22 were compiled on the Western *Allen* and Eastern *Allen* CBCs, 14 & 28 December, respectively (*fide* MB, JBy). Otherwise, 1-2 were reported from several locales through mid-January.
- Pine Warbler** – as is the norm, a few birds were reported during the CBC season with returning birds noted at several locales by mid-February; 2 were present at feeders in a yard at Murray, *Calloway*, 28 January (ME).
- American Tree Sparrow** – local peak counts of interest included 109 at West Ky WMA 30 December (DAk, KMc); at least 45 at Surrey Hills Farm, ne. *Jefferson*, 19 January (BP) with at least 80 there 30 January–5 February (BP) with 45-50 still there 26 February (BP); at least 50 at Bridgeport, *Franklin*, during early February (JBr).
- Chipping Sparrow** – 1-39 were reported on 15 CBCs; also of interest were 25 near Moores Creek, *Jackson*, 2 January (EMi).
- Le Conte's Sparrow** – there were three reports: 1 at Gibraltar 29 December (BP); 1 at West Ky WMA 30 December (†DAk); and at least 2 just e. of Long Point 8 February (ph. BWu, BP).
- White-crowned Sparrow** – an individual of the *gambelli* race at Yatesville Lake WMA, *Lawrence*, 26 December (ph. EHu, BP) was unusual so far east in the state.
- Lincoln's Sparrow** – 2 were reported at West Ky WMA 30 December (†KMc).
- Indigo Bunting** – 1 was seen at Hogue, *Pulaski*, 1 January (ph. RD).
- Western Meadowlark** – there were three reports: at least 4 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 8 February (ph. BP, BWu); at least 2 and possibly up to 10 w. of Cayce, *Fulton*, 8 February (BP, BWu); and 1 at McElroy Lake 23 February (ph. MY, BP, et al.).
- Brewer's Blackbird** – the species was reported from five locales: 2-6 scattered at a few locales in rural nw. *Ballard* 13 December (BP) with 3 along Smokey Road, *Ballard*, 17 December (BP, EHu, RCr) and 1 there 9 February (SRe); 1 along Frazer Road, *Wayne*, 17 December (†RD); 3 over the Ken Unit 28 December (BP); 3 along Frostburg Road, e. *Hopkins*, 12 December (RD) with singles there 19 December (RD) and 11 January (JSo), 6 in the vicinity 11 January (BP et al.), and 10-20 there 7 February (BP, BWu); and 13 at the traditional wintering area along Royal-Oak Grove Road, e. *Grayson*, 4 January (JSo et al.).
- Rusty Blackbird** – 250 at the Highland Creek Unit Sloughs WMA, *Union*, 20 January (KM_i) represented the peak count for the season.
- Yellow-headed Blackbird** – a female was seen along KY 862 ne. of Anton, e. *Hopkins*, 20 December (†BP, EHu). KBRC review required.
- Baltimore Oriole** – an ad. male was present in a yard at Lexington 4-28 January (ph. KG).
- Purple Finch** – the species was remarkably scarce this winter with only 1-6 reported on only six CBCs; most reports during the season were generated during the Great Backyard Bird Count (eBird data).
- Pine Siskin** – there were only two reports: 4 in LBL, *Trigg*, 14 December (BG_i, SB) and 1 at West Ky WMA 30 December (†DAk, KMc).
- Addendum to the Spring 2013 report:**
- White-winged Dove** – 1 was present along West Old State Road w. of Scottsville, *Allen*, 9 May (†JBk, TB, AB). KBRC review required.
- Observers:** Danny Akers (DAk), Audubon Society of Kentucky (ASK), Michael Autin (MA), David Ayer (DAy), Dave Baker (DB), Janice Bardin (JBa), Rebecca Bates (RB), Jamin Beachy (JBy), Matthan Beachy (MB), Beckham Bird Club (BBC), Jane Bell (JBe),

Pat Bell (PB), Carol Besse (CB), Shannon Brockway (SB), Abraham Brubaker (AB), John David Brubaker (JBk), Timothy Brubaker (TB), John Brunjes (JBr), David Burke (DB), Eric Burkholder (EB), Wendy Butler Burt (WB), Ron Canterbury (RCa), Hap Chambers (HC), Lorie Chesnut (LC), Suzanne Clingman (SC), Derek Coomer (DC), Charlie Crawford (CC), Rodney Crice (RCr), Mary Howell Cromer (MC), Thomas Czubek (TC), Wes Davenport (WD), Roseanna Denton (RD), Steve Denton (SD), Barb Dickison (BD), Mike Dorcas (MD), Cheryl Dorman (CD), Gary Dorman (GD), Tom Durbin (TD), Melissa Easley (ME), Joshua Eastlake (JE), Bob & Rosemary Ekes (B&RE), Chris Everson (CE), Blaine Ferrell (BF), Sam Fitton (SF_i), Caleb Fligor (CF), Preston & Shari Forsythe (P&SF), Rob Foster (RF), Scott Freidhof (SF_r), Jonathan Frodge (JF), Samantha Frodge (SF_g), Kim Garmer (KG), Brooke Gilley (BG_i), Brad Goodrich (BGo), Andrew Gossens (AG), Steve Graham (SG), Teresa Graham (TG), Debbie Hamilton (DH), Erin Harper (EH_a), Richard Healy (RH), Nora House (NH), Eddie Huber (EH_u), Bill Hull (BH), Aaron Hulsey (AH), Kathi Hutton (KH), Meghan Kahn (MK), Joe Kappa (JK_a), Kayl Kite (KK), Janet Kistler (JK_i), Steve Kistler (SK), David Lang (DL), Kristi Larson (KL), Ellis Lauder milk (EL), Bill Lisowsky (BL), Charlie Logsdon (CL), Frank Lyne (FL), Kevin Mahoney (KMa), Dax Manley (DM_y), Scott Marsh (SM), Eleanor Martin (EM_a), Kelly McKay (KMc), Lee McNeely (LM), Andrew Melnykovich (AM), John Meredig (JM), Keith Michalski (KM_i), Eliot Miller (EM_i), Chris Minor (CM), Donald Morse, Jr. (DoM), Daniel Moss (DaM), multiple observers (m. ob.), Tina Nauman (TNa), Teresa Noel (TNo), Ronan O'Carra (RO), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BP), Sydney Penner (SP), Charlie Plush (CP), Scott Record (SR_e), Frank Renfrow (FR), Keith Richardson (KR_i), Mike Riggs (MR_i), Keith Robinson (KR_o), Steve Rogers (SR_o), Jeff Rowe (JR), Mark Rubeo (MR_u), Vicki Sandage (VS), Sally Seyal (SS_e), Brenda Slone (BS), Georgia Snyder (GS_n), Carol Sole (CS), Jeff Sole (JS_o), Scott Somershoe (SS_o), Pam Spaulding (PS), Gary Sprandel (GS_p), Rita Stallings (RiS), Jack Stenger (JS_t), Matt Stickel (MaS), Ruben Stoll (RuS), Del Striegel (DS), Mitch Sturgeon (MiS), Ann Suttle (AS), Wayne Tamminga (WT), Charles Thompson (CT), Mark Tower (MT), Kevin Turner (KT), Steve Tyson (ST), Rebecca Urban (RU), Kelly Vowels (KV), Major Waltman (MW_a), Sean Ward (SW), Eileen Wicker (EW_r), Eric Williams (EW_s), Barbara Woerner (BW_o), Mike Wright (MW_r), Helen Wright-North (HW), Brian Wulker (BW_u), Ben Yandell (BY), Mary Yandell (MY), Lauren Young (LY), Lew & Ruth Young (L&RY), Bill Zimmerman (BZ), Stephen Zipperer (SZ).

K.O.S. SPRING 2014 MEETING
Mammoth Cave National Park
April 25–27, 2014

Blaine R. Ferrell

Registration for the meeting was opened at 6:00 p.m. Friday evening by Lee McNeely in the Trog Room of the Mammoth Cave Hotel. Pat and Jane Bell had led a field trip for early meeting attendees in Mammoth Cave National Park earlier in the afternoon.

Vice-President Pat Bell opened the Friday evening program at 7:05 p.m. by thanking the staff at Mammoth Cave for their help with the meeting. She turned the meeting over to President Steve Kistler who presented a Kentucky bird quiz. The quiz included partial photographs of birds, and the audience was to guess the species. Following the quiz, Vice-President Bell introduced three young men in attendance who had started a young birders club in Frankfort. She then introduced the first speaker of the evening, Mark Winland, former student at Eastern Kentucky University and recipient of a grant from the Society's Burt L. Monroe Avian Research Fund. He presented results of his research on "Vocalization of adult American Kestrels (*Falco sparverius*): effect of breeding stage, sex, and

context on call use and call characteristics.” Mr. Winland described three call types of American Kestrels and the specific contexts under which they are given. Following questions for the speaker, Vice-President Bell dismissed everyone for a short break. Following the break she introduced the evening’s second speaker, David Lang, who presented an informative talk on a “Kenya Birding Safari” he took from May 27 to June 19, 2013. His talk was accompanied by many excellent photos he had taken of some of the 654 species of birds that had been observed. Following some questions, Pat Bell described the field trips scheduled for Saturday morning. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Excellent weather greeted field trip participants on Saturday. Four trips were conducted within Mammoth Cave National Park during the morning, and three trips were held in the afternoon, two within the Park and another to Chaney Lake State Nature Preserve and the Western Kentucky University Farm in Warren County.

President Steve Kistler called the Saturday evening business meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. in the Trog Room of the Mammoth Cave Hotel. He mentioned the establishment of the Virginia and Wendell Kingsolver Scholarship Fund, and the availability of an online application, due May 15, to sponsor attendance at a weeklong American Birding Association camp for young birders. President Kistler reminded members of a silent auction organized by Dona Coates to be held during the social hour at the conclusion of the evening program. Blaine Ferrell compiled the list of 121 species from the Saturday field trips

Vice-President Bell introduced the Saturday evening guest speaker, Dr. David Buehler, Professor of Wildlife Science at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He presented an excellent summary of research entitled “Saving our imperiled warblers: ecology and conservation of Golden-winged Warblers.” Dr. Buehler described efforts to fill in gaps in our knowledge regarding the life cycle of Golden-winged Warblers in order to develop a comprehensive conservation strategy. Golden-winged Warblers have declined by 99% in the Appalachian Mountains, but the Cumberland Plateau currently remains a stronghold for them. Hybridization between Blue-winged and Golden-winged Warblers seems to occur frequently in some areas. Using new photocell technology, Golden-winged Warblers have now been tracked during their migration to wintering areas in Central and South America. Ensuring appropriate habitat on both the wintering and breeding grounds should help maintain the population. At the conclusion of the evening program, Steve Kistler outlined the field trips for Sunday. He also announced that the fall 2014 meeting would be held September 19-21 at Lake Barkley State Resort Lodge. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. and was followed by the social hour and silent auction.

Three Sunday morning field trips left the lodge at 8:00 a.m. Three species were added to the weekend list, bringing it up to 124.

Attendance at the Spring 2014 K.O.S. Meeting

Berea:	Rebecca Bates, Rob Foster, Lynne & Sam Spencer
Bowling Green:	Tom Durbin, Blaine Ferrell, Marilyn Mattingly
Burlington:	Lee & Lynda McNeely
Carlisle:	Eva Lee & Wendell Kingsolver
Cox’s Creek:	Dona Coates
Danville:	Ginny & Neil Eklund
Elizabethtown:	Doug & Janet Gebler
Frankfort:	Joyce Bender, Joyce Fry
Georgetown:	David & Betsy Lang
Glasgow:	Linda Craiger, Sandra Moss
Greenville:	Steve & Teresa Graham
Lexington:	Steve Ahler, Irene Camargo, Bruce Cryder, Pat Howard, Mark Morgan, Jessica Moss, Ronan O’Carra, Antonio Xeira

Louisville:	Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Carol Besse, Wanda & Warren Bilkey, Rob Lane, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Nancy Vance, Ben & Mary Yandell
Morehead:	Fred & Katie Busroe, Brian Reeder, Brian Wulker
Mount Sterling:	Gerald Robe
Munfordville:	Steve Kistler
Owensboro:	Marilee & Wendell Thompson
Prospect:	Win Ahrens
Somerset:	Gay Hodges, Charline Murrinan
Upton:	Bonnie Avery
Waddy:	Adam, Colton, & Tanner Shepard
Cincinnati, OH:	Dave & Gail Wulker
Greenville, IN:	Jane Fender

**Birds Observed at the KOS Spring Meeting at
Mammoth Cave National Park and Vicinity,
April 25-27, 2014**

The following species were observed by KOS members during the weekend of 25-27 April 2014 at Mammoth Cave National Park and vicinity (Note: species seen at and near Chaney Lake, Warren County, are designated with a "C" and those seen at the Western Kentucky University Farm, Warren County, are designated with a "W." All others were reported within or adjacent to Mammoth Cave National Park): Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler (C), Green-winged Teal (C), Northern Bobwhite (C), Wild Turkey, Pied-billed Grebe, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, Lesser Yellowlegs (C), Semipalmated Sandpiper (C), Least Sandpiper (C), Wilson's Snipe (W), Rock Pigeon, Eurasian Collared-Dove, Mourning Dove, Barred Owl, Eastern Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, American Kestrel, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Acadian Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Loggerhead Shrike (C), White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Horned Lark (C), Purple Martin, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, Veery, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, American Pipit (C), Ovenbird, Worm-eating Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Blue-winged Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, American Redstart, Cape May Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Northern Parula, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Palm Warbler, Pine Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Lark Sparrow (C), Savannah Sparrow (C), Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Bobolink (W), Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark (W), Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, American Goldfinch, and House Sparrow. The total number of species was 124.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Visit the NEW K.O.S. Web Site!

You may now find information about the Society on our new web site at the following link: www.birdky.org. Please bookmark this web site address, as the former web site will be removed when the migration of all information from it is completed. The K.O.S. Board would like to thank Dr. Gary Ritchison at Eastern Kentucky University for his many years as site host and manager. Gary created the Society's web site way back in 1998, and he has maintained it as a volunteer ever since!

Virginia and Wendell Kingsolver Scholarship Available

The Virginia & Wendell Kingsolver Scholarship Fund was established in 2013 to honor the memory of Virginia "Ginny" Kingsolver and the legacy and contributions of Ginny and her husband, Wendell, to K.O.S. and to environmental education efforts across Kentucky. The scholarship is available to a young birder between the ages of 13 and 18 who lives in Kentucky. The Fund will pay tuition for a young birder to attend an American Birding Association Summer Camp. Details about the A.B.A. camps can be found on the A.B.A. website. To apply for a Kingsolver Scholarship, applicants should fill out the form found on the K.O.S. web site (<http://biology.eku.edu/kos/Kingsolver.htm>), write a short essay (500 words or less) on why he or she wants to attend, and include a brief recommendation from a parent, teacher, or mentor. Recipients will be asked to report on their camp experience either in person to their local bird club, to K.O.S. at a meeting, or in writing. The deadline to apply for a 2015 Kingsolver Scholarship is May 15, 2015.

Anne L. Stamm Avian Education Fund Grants Available

The Anne L. Stamm Avian Education Fund supports education of children in the deeper appreciation of birds and ornithology. For guidelines on how to apply for grants of up to \$500, please contact Scott Marsh by mail at 4401 Athens-Boonesboro Road, Lexington, KY, 40509, or via email at (scott.marsh@twc.com).

Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Avian Research Grants Available

The Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Avian Research Fund supports research on birds in Kentucky with monetary awards of up to \$1000. For guidelines on how to apply, visit the K.O.S. web site (<http://www.biology.eku.edu/kos/monroe.htm>) or contact Kathryn Heyden, Chair of the Burt Monroe Fund Committee, at Ky. Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources, #1 Sportsman's Lane, Frankfort, KY, 40601 (kathryn.heyden@ky.gov).

Kentucky Bird Records Committee

The Kentucky Bird Records Committee (KBRC) is charged with determining the validity of records of rare and out-of-season birds in Kentucky. Sightings of such birds should be documented with information supporting the identification and promptly submitted to the KBRC. Photographic evidence is desirable but not essential. Electronic documentation is preferred and should be submitted to KBRC Secretary, Ben Yandell, via e-mail at secy@kybirdrecords.org. If electronic submission is not feasible, paper documentation can be mailed to Ben Yandell, KBRC Secretary, 513 Lymington Ct., Louisville, KY 40243.



Cinnamon Teal, *Warren*
14 February 2014
Blaine Ferrell



Le Conte's Sparrow, *Fulton*
8 February 2014
Brian Wulker



Snowy Owl, *Jefferson*
27 December 2013
Raptor Rehabilitation of Kentucky



Great Black-backed Gull, *Campbell/Kenton*
2 February 2014
Eric Burkholder



Rufous Hummingbird, *Madison*
15 December 2013
Caleb Fligor



Orange-crowned Warbler, *Calloway*
28 January 2014
Rebecca Urban