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## Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 90, no. 3)

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# *The Kentucky Warbler*

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

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## **IN THIS ISSUE**

SPRING 2014 SEASON, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and Lee McNeely.....	63
FIELD NOTES .....	78
The March 2014 Flight of Red-necked Grebes .....	78
Observation of a Northern Rough-winged Swallow Nest in a Tree Cavity .....	81
NEWS AND VIEWS .....	83

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### THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

Journal of the Kentucky Ornithological Society, published quarterly in February, May, August, and November, *The Kentucky Warbler* is sent to all members not in arrears for dues. Current membership categories and corresponding dues follow: Regular (\$15.00); Contributing (\$25.00); Student (\$10.00); Family (\$20.00); and Life (\$300.00). Direct manuscripts and communications to the editor. Send membership dues to the Treasurer. Make requests for back issues to the Corresponding Secretary.

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#### THE COVER

We thank Rodney Crice for the image of the Red-necked Grebes (*Podiceps grisegena*) taken 9 March 2014 on the Ohio River off the Covington waterfront, Kenton County (see Field Note, p. 78). Financial support for color reproduction in this issue provided by the Daniel Boone National Forest.



## SPRING 2014 SEASON

Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and Lee McNeely

Climatic conditions during spring 2014 were somewhat variable. Temperatures averaged 4-5°F cooler than normal statewide during the month of March, but slightly warmer than normal during April and May. Precipitation across central Kentucky was below normal during March, but about average in the west and above normal in the east. In contrast, April precipitation was above normal statewide, with some stations reporting nearly twice the normal rainfall. May became drier than normal again across most of the state, particularly across the east and west, with most stations in those portions of Kentucky recording about half of normal rainfall. The period of wet weather during April was significant enough to cause a brief appearance of the transient lakes in southern Warren County, but they quickly disappeared.

Probably as a result of the cool early spring conditions, there were few early reports. Rarity highlights included continuing White-winged Scoters and Long-tailed Ducks, Red-throated Loon, an unprecedented flight of Red-necked Grebes, Purple Gallinule, and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. With the passing of each year, it should be noted that more and more reports contained herein have been gleaned from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's on-line bird database, eBird. Many reports continue to be posted to the Society's birding listserv, BIRDKY, with some redundancy between the two. In all cases, an attempt is made to verify that reports contained herein have been accurately reported to either source by direct communication with reporters.

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”; “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 or song; “†” next to an observer's initials indicates that written details were submitted with the report; **Place names:** Adkins Swamp, Sinclair Unit, Muhlenberg; Anchorage Trail, e. Jefferson; Barkley Dam, Lyon/Livingston (unless otherwise noted); Barren River Lake, Allen/Barren (unless otherwise noted); Berea College Forest, Madison; Bernheim Forest, Bullitt (unless otherwise noted); Blood River = Blood River embayment, Ky Lake, Calloway; Cave Lake (formerly Cooley's Pond), Wayne; Cave Run Lake, Bath/Rowan; Cecilia, Hardin; Cedar Creek Lake, Lincoln; Chaney Lake, Warren; Cherokee Park, Louisville; Clear Creek WMA, Hopkins; Craig's Creek = Craig's Creek embayment off the Ohio River downstream from Warsaw, Gallatin; DBNF = Daniel Boone National Forest; Eastpark Industrial Park, Boyd/Greenup; Falls of the Ohio, Jefferson; Flemingsburg, Flemingsburg Reservoir, Fleming; Freeman Lake, Hardin; Horseshoe Road = slough along Horseshoe Road, w. Henderson; J. Dance Road, e. of Sauerheber, Henderson; Jacobson Park, Lexington; Ky Dam = Kentucky Dam, Livingston/Marshall; Kentucky Dam Village [SRP], Marshall; Ky Lake = Kentucky Lake, Calloway/Marshall/Trigg; Kuttawa = Lake Barkley near Old Kuttawa Rec. Area, Lyon; Lake Linville, Rockcastle; Lake Peewee, Hopkins; LBL = Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, Lyon/Trigg; LBL Nature Station, Lyon/Trigg; Lexington, Fayette; Little Lick = Little Lick Recreation Area, DBNF, Pulaski; Long Point = Long Point Unit Reelfoot NWR, Fulton; Lower Hickman Bottoms, w. Fulton; Mammoth Cave = Mammoth Cave National Park, Edmonson (unless otherwise noted); Markland

Dam, on the Ohio River, *Gallatin*; McConnell Springs = McConnell Springs Park, *Fayette*; McElroy Lake, s. *Warren*; Melco = Melco flood retention basin, s. *Jefferson*; Minor Clark = Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, *Rowan*; Morehead, *Rowan*; Mud Creek = Mud Creek floodplain at KY 94, e. of Hickman, *Fulton*; NWR = National Wildlife Refuge; nw. of Powderly = Muhlenberg County Rail-Trail section s. of Western Ky. Parkway, nw. of Powderly, *Muhlenberg*; Obion WMA, n. of Hickman, *Fulton*; Open Pond, w. *Fulton*; Owsley Fork Lake, *Madison/Jackson*; Parsons Pond (formerly KY 739 Pond) = transient lake e. of KY 739 e. of Licksillet, sw. *Logan*; Pond Creek Bottoms, along KY 85 ne. of Anton, *Hopkins*; Pope Lick Park (formerly Floyds Fork Park), *Jefferson*; Reformatory Lake, nr. Buckner, *Oldham*; Sauerheber = Sauerheber Unit Sloughs WMA, *Henderson*; Shaker Village, *Mercer*; Sinclair Unit, Peabody WMA, *Muhlenberg*; Spindletop Farm = University of Kentucky Spindletop Farm, *Fayette*; SNP = State Nature Preserve; SP = State Park; SRP = State Resort Park; Surrey Hills Farm, ne. *Jefferson*; Upper Hickman Bottoms, *Fulton*; Walton Pond, s. *Warren*; Warsaw, *Gallatin*; West Somerset Bypass = flooded field along the West Somerset Bypass, *Pulaski*; White City WMA, e. of Morton's Gap, *Hopkins*; WMA = Wildlife Management Area.

**Greater White-fronted Goose** – reports of interest included a few hundred still along J. Dance Road 1 March (BP, EHu); 28 still at Cave Run Lake 5 March (ph. BWu); 2 at Cedar Creek Lake 8 March (RF, RBa); 15 on Walton Pond 9 March (BDa, RL, BP); 26 at Flemingsburg 13 March (ph. BWu); 1 at Spindletop Farm 15 March (VS); and 6 that lingered along J. Dance Road to 19 April (CC et al.) with 2 last seen there 3 May (ph. CC).

**Ross's Goose** – reports of interest included 1 on Lower Douglas Lake, Ft. Knox, *Hardin*, 10 March (ph. ML); 1 on Honker Lake, LBL, *Trigg*, 30 March (ph. MCu); and 2 on the Ohio River at Louisville 1 April (ph. TB, CBe).

**Cackling Goose** – 4 were still at Osprey Cove Lake, *Shelby*, 6 March (†AM).

**Mute Swan** – single birds lingered at several sites into March including 1 at Jacobson Park 7-9 March (SPe, AM, et al.), and a pair was present at Adkins Swamp 30 March into April (S&TG) with 3 cygnets in their company 26 May (ph. S&TG).

**Tundra Swan** – 6 were at Craig's Creek 7 March (ph. EHu) and 33 were still at Horseshoe Road 10 March (CC) with 2 last seen there 1 April (CC).

**Gadwall** – modest peak counts included 300 at Sauerheber 1 March (KM); 120 at McElroy Lake 15 March (BP, JSo); and 300+ in the Upper Hickman Bottoms 20 April (BP).



Mute Swan family, *Muhlenberg*  
26 May 2014  
Steve Graham

- American Wigeon** – a male on Owsley Fork Lake 23 May (ph. RBa, RF) was very tardy.
- Blue-winged Teal** – 2 along J. Dance Road 1 March (CC, BP, EHu) were the earliest to be reported. Peak counts of interest included 200 at Adkins Swamp 30 March (S&TG); 550+ in w. *Henderson* 5 April (BP et al.); 100 at Hays Kennedy Park, *Jefferson*, 6 April (ALi); 800+ in the Upper Hickman Bottoms 20 April (BP); and 60 at Chaney Lake 26 April (BP, KOS). A male lingered at Melco into June (m. ob.); other tardy birds included 1 nw. of Powdery 28/30 May (ph. S&TG) and 3 at Obion WMA 30 May (HC, ME).
- Cinnamon Teal x Blue-winged Teal** – there were two reports: a male at Ellis Park, *Henderson*, 5 April (ph. BP, CBs, MS, BY, MY) and a male on a pond along US 31E a few mi. n. of Jonesville, *Hart*, 21 April (ph. JSo).
- Northern Shoveler** – peak counts of interest included 150 at Sauerheber 1 March (KM) with 400 there 5 April (KM); and 240 at Long Point 28 March (HC, ME). Tardy males were present at Pumphouse Pond, *Pulaski*, 23 May (ph. RD) and at Melco 30 May into June (BP, m. ob.).
- Northern Pintail** – reports of interest included 15 on the Ohio River from Meldahl Dam to Ripley, OH, *Mason*, 6 March (BP); 30 at the Sinclair Unit 6 March (S&TG); 70 along J. Dance Road 7 March (JSo); and 35 at McElroy Lake 9 March (BP, RL, BDa).
- Green-winged Teal** – peak counts of interest included at least 100 at Chaney Lake 15 March (BP, JSo); 200 along J. Dance Road 7 March (JSo); 375 at Long Point 21 March (HC, ME) with 300 still there 28 March (HC, ME); 450 at Sauerheber 23 March (JMg); 300+ in w. *Henderson* 5 April (BP et al.); and 325+ in the Upper Hickman Bottoms 20 April (BP).
- Redhead** – peak counts of interest included 200 on Owsley Fork Lake 1 March (RF, RBa) with 251 counted there 6 March (RF, RBa); 60+ on the Reformatory Lake and 250-300 on the Ohio River at Louisville, both 5 March (BP); 60 at Flemingsburg 5 March (BWu); 160+ on the Ohio River from Maysville, *Mason*, to Vanceburg, *Lewis*, 6 March (JBr); 125+ on the Ohio River above Warsaw, *Gallatin*, 7 March (EHu); 116 on Lake Linville 8 March (JSo, CS); 64 at Jacobson Park 9 March (RO); 150+ on McElroy Lake and 250 on Walton Pond, both 9 March (BP, RL, BDa); 200 just s. of the Grassy Pond-Powells Lake Unit Sloughs WMA, *Union*, 14 March (KM); and 100+ on Barren River Lake 15 March (BP).
- Canvasback** – peak counts of interest included ca. 70 at Flemingsburg 5 March (BWu); 75 on the Ohio River downstream from Warsaw 6 March (BP); 50 on McElroy Lake 9 March (BDa, RL, BP); 55 on Walton Pond 15 March (BP, JSo); and 33 on Freeman Lake 17 March (BP).
- Ring-necked Duck** – peak counts of interest included 110 at Flemingsburg 5 March (BWu); 250 on Owsley Fork Lake 6 March (RF, RBa); and 400 on the Knob Lick Branch Reservoir, *Fleming*, 7 March (BWu);
- Greater Scaup** – late winter numbers dropped off quickly by early March; 50+ were still on the Ohio River at Louisville 5 March (BP); other reports of interest included 20 above Meldahl Dam 6 March (BP); 12 on Lake Peewee 7 March (JSo); 6 on Parsons Pond 8 March (FL); 12 on Lexington Reservoir #4 on 16 March (DL, ASK); 18 on Freeman Lake 17 March (BP); 22 on Lake Barkley, *Trigg*, 1 April (JSo); and a tardy male at Melco 9-14 May (EHu, BP, et al.).
- Lesser Scaup** – peak counts of interest included 130+ on Cave Run Lake 1 March (BWu); 107 on Owsley Fork Lake 5 March (RBa, RF); 100+ on the Ohio River downstream from Warsaw 6 March (BP); 130 on Lake Linville 8 March (JSo, CS); 115 on McElroy Lake 15 March (BP, JSo); 63 on Lexington Reservoir #4 on 16 March (DL, ASK); 150 on the Ohio River near the mouth of Landing Creek, *Boone*, 22 March (LM); and 255 at Kuttawa 8 April (JSo).

**Surf Scoter** – there were five reports: an ad. male continued on the Ohio River at Louisville to 7 March (SW) with probably the same bird upstream on the Ohio River off Charlestown, IN, *Oldham*, 21 March (TB, CBe); 3 at a different location on the Ohio River at Louisville 6 March (JSo); an ad. male on the Ohio River ca. 5 miles upstream from Maysville, *Mason*, 6 March (JBr); 6 on Ky Lake above the dam 21 April (BP); and an ad. male on the Ohio River at Louisville 25 April (BY, ph. MY).

**White-winged Scoter** – flocks continued at several locales from late winter, although numbers diminished relatively quickly during March. A summary of reports follows: 9 on the Ohio River at Greenup, *Greenup*, 2 March with 2 still there 8 March (CT); 54 total still on the Ohio River at Louisville 5 March (BP) with 29 still there 9/10 March (EHu/JBa), 5 still there 2 April (DSt), and 1 last seen there 6 April (SD); 48 on the Ohio River from Markland Dam to Craig's Creek 5 March

Ohio River at Craig's Creek 7 March (GD); 4 on Lake Peewee 7 March (JSo); 5 on Lake Linville 8 March (RF, RBa, et al.); 2 on a quarry lake along the Snyder Freeway n. of Avoca, *Jefferson*, 10 March (GBe, BP); 71 on the Ohio River off Charlestown, IN, *Oldham*, 21 March (ph. TB, CBe); 1 on the Ohio River above Uniontown Dam, *Union*, 21 March (ph. CC); 1 on Upper Douglas Lake, Ft. Knox, *Hardin*, 21-22 March (ph. ML); 9 on Cave Run Lake 4 April (BWu); 1 on Ky Lake off the mouth of Big Bear Creek, *Marshall*, 21/22 April (BP/ph. BLi); and 5 on Lake Peewee 24 April (JSo).

**Long-tailed Duck** – peak numbers actually occurred during March with the following reports: 1 on Owsley Fork Lake 1-7 March (ph. RF, RBa, GBo); 7 on the Ohio River at Louisville 1 March (m. ob.) with 16 total there 4 March (JBe, PB, et al.), 25 total there 6 March (EHu et al.), peak counts of 31 & 32 there 16 & 19 March, respectively (DSt et al.), 13 there 27 March (DSt), and 4 last reported there 1



White-winged Scoters (nearly half of 61) w/ Greater Scaup, *Bracken*  
6 March 2014  
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

(BP) with 40 still there 6 March (BP); 1 on the Ohio River above Meldahl Dam and a flock of 61 on the Ohio River upstream of Augusta, *Bracken*, both 6 March (ph. BP); a remarkable tally of 187 on the Ohio River between Maysville, *Mason*, and Vanceburg, *Lewis*, 6 March (JBr) with most [150+] between Manchester, OH, and Concord, *Lewis* (JBr); 6 on the

April (TB, CBe); 7 on the Ohio River at Warsaw and a female above Markland Dam, both 5 March (BP) with 11 and 1 at the same respective locales 6 March (BP); 1 on the Ohio River at Chilo, OH, *Bracken*, and 16 on the Ohio River upstream of the mouth of White Oak Creek, OH, *Bracken*, both 6 March (BP); 1 on Lake Victoria, *Scott*, 8-9 March (ph. LGl); 9 on

Taylorville Lake, *Spencer*, 10 March (ph. EHu, BWo); 1 on Lake Luzerne, *Muhlenberg*, 11 March (S&TG); 6 on Lake Barkley s. of the US 68/KY 80 bridge, *Trigg*, 20 March (JBr); 1 on the Ohio River off Charlestown, IN, *Oldham*, 21 March (TB, CBe); and 5 on the Ohio River at Catlettsburg, *Boyd*, 1 April (CT).

**Bufflehead** – peak counts included 120 on Barren River Lake 15 March (BP); 98 on McElroy Lake 15 March (BP, JSo); and 375 at Kuttawa 8 April (JSo) that represented a new state one-day high count. A female near Dranes Lakes, *Hardin*, 1 May (BP, RL) was the latest to be reported.

**Common Goldeneye** – peak counts of interest included 40-50 still on the Ohio River from Markland Dam to Warsaw 5 March (BP) and 210+ on the Ohio River from Maysville, *Mason*, to Vanceburg, *Lewis*, 6 March (JBr). Two at Kuttawa 2 May (BP, RL) were the latest to be reported.

**Hooded Merganser** – a female was observed with 3 yg. at Caperton Swamp Nature Preserve, *Jefferson*, 19 April (MS).

**Common Merganser** – late winter numbers quickly diminished and most were gone by mid-March. Reports of interest included 22 on Owsley Fork Lake 1 March (RBa, RF); 15 on Cave Run Lake (BWu) and 7 still on the Reformatory Lake (BP), both 5 March; 200-250 total on the Ohio

River from Meldahl Dam to Ripley, OH, *Mason*, 6 March (BP); 8 on Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 13 March (BP, EHu, MY); and a female last seen on Lake Peewee 24 April (JSo).

**Red-breasted Merganser** – peak counts of interest included 67 on Cave Run Lake 1 March (BWu) with 82 there 5 March (BWu); at least 75 on the Ohio River from Meldahl Dam to Ripley, OH, *Mason*, 6 March (BP); and 16 on Freeman Lake 17 March (BP). Two still at Kuttawa 2 May (BP, RL); 9 on Cave Run Lake 7 May (BWu); and 2 on Ky Lake above the dam 10 May (BP, MS) were the latest to be reported.

**Ruddy Duck** – modest peak counts included 60 on Lexington Reservoirs #2 & #3 on 9 March (RO) and 55 on Barren River Lake 15 March (BP). One at Flemingsburg 4 May (BWu) was relatively tardy.

**Red-throated Loon** – there were three reports: 1 on Lexington Reservoir #3 on 7 March (ph. RO) with probably a different bird there 10 March (ph. JL); and 1 on Barren River Lake 28 March (†JBy, MBy). KBRC review required.

**Common Loon** – 55-60 on Ky Lake, *Marshall*, 21 April (BP) represented a modest peak count for the season; singles at Ky Dam Village 13 May (AM) and on Barren River Lake 14 May (BP) were the latest to be reported.



Red-necked Grebes (9 of 10), *Jefferson*  
10 March 2014  
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.



- Pied-billed Grebe** – 110 on Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 13 March (BP, EHu, MY) and 100+ on Barren River Lake 15 March (BP, JSo) represented peak counts for the season.
- Horned Grebe** – reports of interest included 149 on Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 13 March (BP, EHu, MY) with 110 still there 6 April (JSo); 125+ on Barren River Lake 15 March (BP, JSo) with 85 still there 28 March (MBy, JBy); 22 on Lexington Reservoir #4 on 16 March (DL, ASK); and ca. 15 on McElroy Lake 15 March (BP, JSo). Tardy birds included 1 at Hays Kennedy Park, *Jefferson*, 2 May (ph. JBa) and 3 on Ky Lake above the dam 10 May (BP, MS).
- Red-necked Grebe** – an unprecedented flight occurred during the first week or so of March; see the Field Note on p. 78 for complete details.
- Double-crested Cormorant** – ca. 1000 were at the heronry at Kuttawa (with several dozen nests active) 21 April (BP); ca. 1500 were present at the heronry on Lake Barkley s. of US 68/KY 80, *Trigg*, 26 May (HC et al.).
- American White Pelican** – reports of interest included 21 at Swan Lake, *Ballard*, 2 April (JSo); 4 over Ellis Park, *Henderson*, 5 April (MY, BY, MS, CBs, BP); 3 over West Franklin Road, *Henderson*, 5 April (MY et al.); 66 on Open Pond 21 April (BP); 100+ still on Lake Barkley above the dam 21 April (BP); 2 at Kuttawa and 35-40 on Lake Barkley above the dam both 2 May (BP, RL); 106 still below Barkley Dam 13 May (AM); and 1 near Horseshoe Road 25 May (ph. CC).
- American Bittern** – there were six reports: 1 along KY 268 e. of Sauerheber 5 April (ph. CC); 1 nw. of Powderly 12 April (ph. S&TG); an impressive tally of 5 seen/heard at Clear Creek WMA 17 April (JY); 1 along Duckbill Road, Green River WMA, *Adair*, 19 April (RD); 1 at West Ky WMA, *McCracken*, 28 April (SR); and 1 adjacent to the n. end of the Grassy Pond-Powells Lake Unit Sloughs WMA, *Henderson*, 29 April (KM).
- Least Bittern** – there were reports from five locales: 1 at Adkins Swamp 16 April (JY) with 3-4 there 17-26 May (HC, S&TG, JY); 5 heard at Clear Creek WMA 17 April (JY) with 2 seen/heard there 2 May (JY) and 4 heard there 20 May (JY); 1 heard at White City WMA 17 April (JY); 1 heard at Pond Creek Marsh, Sauerheber, 22 April/12 May (CP); and 2 heard at the Ken Unit Peabody WMA, *Ohio*, 24 May (RD).
- Great Blue Heron** – 17 nests were counted on a ridge above Green River Lake nw. of Holmes Bend boat dock, *Adair*, 13 March (MY, BP, EHu) with at least 10 counted on a ridge above the lake sw. of Smith Ridge, *Taylor* 13 March (BP, MY, EHu).
- Great Egret** – 1 at Long Point 21 March (HC, ME); 1/2 at Minor Clark 23/26 March (BWu); and 1 at the mouth of the Little Sandy River, *Greenup*, 30 March (CT) were the earliest to be reported. Circa 35 were at the heronry at Kuttawa 21 April (BP); probably at least 5 pairs were seen coming from and going to nests on Shippingport Island, *Jefferson*, 24/29 April (BL/BP); up to 20 were at Melco during May (m. ob.).
- Snowy Egret** – a few were seen at the heronry at Kuttawa 21 April (BP); also reported were a fly-by at the Falls of the Ohio 25 April (MY); 1 at Melco 12 May into June (BP et al.); and 1 at Sauerheber 20 May (CC).
- Little Blue Heron** – 1 at Sauerheber 18 May (JMg) was the only one reported away from w. Kentucky; at least 15 were seen at the heronry on Lake Barkley s. of US 68/KY 80, *Trigg*, 26 May (HC et al.).
- Cattle Egret** – ca. 100 were at the heronry at Kuttawa 21 April (BP); there were three reports away from the LBL vicinity: 1 at Fox Chase Pond, *Wayne*, 30 April (ph. RD); 1 at Melco 9 May (ph. BP et al.); and 1 near Dot, s. *Logan*, 9 May (ph. FL).
- Green Heron** – singles at A.J. Jolly Park, *Campbell* (LB et al.), and at Minor Clark (BWu), both 2 April, were the earliest to be reported.

**Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** – there were reports from three locales: 6 (3 pairs on nests) at Jenny Hole-Highland Creek Unit Sloughs WMA, *Union*, 18 April through May (ph. CC); at least 2 along Cypress Creek, *Marshall*, 2 May (BY, MY); and 1 at Clarks River NWR e. of Benton, *Marshall*, 27/31 May (HC/JPI).



Yellow-crowned Night-Herons at nest  
*Union*, 18 April 2014  
Charlie Crawford

**Black Vulture** – 125 at the Pfeiffer Fish Hatchery, *Franklin*, 2 April (BDe) represented the peak count for the season.

**Osprey** – 1 over the Berea College Forest 24 May (SM) may have been a tardy migrant as it was not near known nesting areas.

**Mississippi Kite** – birds returned to last year's nesting area at St. Matthews, *Jefferson*, by 11 May (MCo et al.) continuing into June. Other reports of interest included 1 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 4 May (MBy, JBy); 1 at Big Rivers WMA, *Crittenden*, 8 May (SH); 1 in LBL, *Trigg*, 17 May (ph. BLi); 1 at Central City, *Muhlenberg*, 17-18 May (SN); nest-building activity noted at Dawson Springs, *Hopkins*, during the third week of May (ERa); and 1 over Douglass Hills, *Jefferson*, 23 May (MMo).

**Northern Harrier** – a male was observed at the Eastpark Industrial Park 8 May (JDu, BP, et al.).

**Broad-winged Hawk** – 1 over Pulaski County Park 8 April (RD), 2 near Cub Run, *Hart*, 9 April (SK, JK), and 1 over

Morehead 10 April (BWu) were the earliest to be reported.

**Golden Eagle** – there were nine reports: a presumed ad. over I-71 nw. of Crestwood, *Oldham*, 1 March (BDa, LN); 1 over the Ohio River at Wilson Bottom, *Lewis*, 6 March (JBr); 1 last seen at Bernheim Forest, *Bullitt/Nelson*, 25 March (KV); a juv. over the Beaver Creek Wetlands above Cave Run Lake, *Menifee*, 26 March (ph. BWu); a juv. over the Renfro Valley Campground, *Rockcastle*, 27 March (†RD, AM, GH); a juv. over Little Lick 28 March (†RD); a juv. over Sauerheber 5 April (ph. MY, BY); a juv. se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 19 April (MBy, JBy); and a transmittered bird tracked to the Beaver Creek embayment of Lake Cumberland, *Wayne*, 23 April (SS).

**Virginia Rail** – there were six reports: 1 at Spindletop Farm 27 March (ph. DP); 1 nw. of Powderly 10 April (ph. S&TG); 3 heard at White City WMA 17 April (JY); 1 at Mt. Washington, *Bullitt*, 22 April (KA *vide* DCo); 1 at the Sinclair Unit 7 May (ph. S&TG); and 2 at Adkins Swamp 26 May (S&TG).

**Sora** – reports of interest included 2 at Spindletop Farm 28 March (MTo, CF) with singles still there 4/30 April (MTo, AX/DL); 1 at Draut Park, Louisville, 8 April (ph. JuB); at least 12 at Sauerheber 13 April (BP, BBC); 10 heard at Adkins Swamp 16 April (JY); 17 heard at Clear Creek WMA 17 April with 22 seen/heard there 2 May (JY); 1 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 25 April (MBy, JBy); at least 6 at Long Point 10 May (MS, BP); and 8 nw. of Powderly 20 April (S&TG) with 6 still there 3/6 May (S&TG) and 1 lingering there to 23 May (S&TG).

**Common Gallinule** – there was only one report: 1 nw. of Powderly 20 May (S&TG).

**Purple Gallinule** – 1 was present on a small pond along Red Barn Road, several mi. s. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 10-13 May (†MBy, JBy, MkB, MrB). KBRC review required.

**American Coot** – 1500 at Adkins Swamp 30 March (S&TG) and 2000 at Sauer-

heber 5 April (KM) represented the season's peak counts. One at Bernheim Forest, *Bullitt*, 24 May (BrJ) and 4 at Adkins Swamp 26 May (S&TG) were the latest to be reported.

**Sandhill Crane** – a few thousand were still in the vicinity of Cecilia 1 March (BP, AC) but numbers diminished very rapidly thereafter; reports of interest included 85 still in the Pond River Bottoms 7 March (JSo); 93 still at Dranes Lakes, *Hardin*, 18 March (CE); and 2 at the Beaver Creek Wetlands above Cave Run Lake, *Menifee*, 12 April (BWu).

**Black-necked Stilt** – 1 ne. of Long Point 5 April (HC, ME) and 3 at Long Point 10 April (EL, LGi) were the earliest to be reported; other reports of interest included 2 at Sauerheber 13 April (BP, BBC); 8 total in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 21 April (BP) with 29 total (groups of 2-8) in the same area 10 May (BP, MS, BY, MY) and one to a few remaining at scattered locales there into mid-May (m. ob.); and 2 at the Grassy Pond-Powells Lake Unit Sloughs WMA, *Henderson*, 23 April (ph. JSo, CP).

**American Avocet** – there were three reports: 9 at the Falls of the Ohio with an additional 58 on the Ohio River upstream from the Falls of the Ohio, all 25 April (BY, ph. MY, et al.) that represented a new state high count; 1 at Freeman Lake 25 April (ph. BP, ph. BWu); and 1 at the Falls of the Ohio 27-28 April (BP et al.).

**American Golden-Plover** – 3 at McElroy Lake 9 March (BDa, BP, RL) and 9 there 12 March (TD) were the earliest to be reported. Other reports of interest included 80 at McElroy Lake (TD) and 4 at Parsons Pond (ph. FL), both 28 March; 5 near Horseshoe Road 5 April (CC); at least 380 in the Pond Creek Bottoms 9 April (BP, EHu); 1 at Minor Clark 11 April (ph. BWu) that was unusual for the e. part of the state during spring; a new state high count of at least 1285 counted adjacent to Obion WMA 20 April (BP) with only 100-150 there 21 April (BP); and 75-100 in the vicinity of Open Pond 21 April (BP).

**Black-bellied Plover** – there was only one report: 6 adjacent to Obion WMA 10 May (BP, MS, BY, MY).

**Semipalmated Plover** – 2 w. of Miller, *Fulton*, and 35 n. of Long Point, both 21 April (BP) were the earliest to be reported; modest peak counts included 80 along KY 268 nw. of Sauerheber 18 May (JMg) and 52 at Melco 20 May (EHu, JH).

**Spotted Sandpiper** – 1 at Green River Lake, *Taylor*, 5 April (JSo, CS) was the earliest to be reported; singles at Fox Chase Pond, *Wayne*, 27 May (RD), at Cedar Creek Lake 28 May (RF), at Pump-house Pond, *Pulaski*, 30 May (RD), and at Surrey Hills Farm 31 May (BP) were the latest to be reported.

**Solitary Sandpiper** – singles at Surrey Hills Farm 2 April (BP) and at LBL, *Trigg*, 4 April (BLi) were the earliest to be reported.

**Greater Yellowlegs** – 3 along J. Dance Road 1 March (CC, BP, et al.) were the earliest to be reported. Peak counts of interest included 120 at and near Long Point 28 March (HC, ME) with 65 at Long Point 22 April (RD); 100+ in w. *Henderson* 5 April (BP et al.) with 125+ there 13 April (BP, BBC); 100+ in the Pond Creek Bottoms 9 April (BP, EHu); and 60 in the Upper Hickman Bottoms 20 April (BP). One at Melco 23 May (BP) was the latest to be reported.

**Willet** – there were six reports: 10 along Chamberlain Lane, ne. *Jefferson* (JBe, PB, et al.), and 29 at the Falls of the Ohio (BP et al.), both 25 April; 1 at Minor Clark 30 April (ph. BWu); 1 at Chaney Lake (BF) and at least 27 at Lake Linville (ph. CH, ph. NoH), both 1 May; and 3 at the dam at Cave Run Lake, *Bath*, 7 May (TS, ph. BWu).

**Lesser Yellowlegs** – peak counts of interest included 125+ in w. *Henderson* 5 April (BP et al.) with 375+ there 13 April (BP, BBC); ca. 140 at and near Long Point 5 April (HC, ME); 75+ in the Pond Creek Bottoms 9 April (BP, EHu); 500+ in the Upper Hickman Bottoms 20 April (BP); 300 at Long Point 22 April (RD); 70 at

Sauerheber 23 April (KM) with 100 there 27 April/2 May (CC), 300 there 3 May (CC), and 350 there 4 May (CC); 63 at Cave Lake 30 April (RD); 58 w. of Cecilia 1 May (BP, RL); 77 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 1 May (MBy, JBy); and 70 at Melco 6 May (BP, MS). Two at the Grassy Pond-Powells Lake Unit Sloughs WMA, *Henderson* (CC) and 1 at Melco (JBa), both 25 May, were the latest to be reported.

**Upland Sandpiper** – there was only one report: 2 along the West Somerset Bypass 4 May (ph. RD).

**Ruddy Turnstone** – there was only one report: 2 at Melco 14 May (BP et al.).

**Stilt Sandpiper** – there were only five reports: a very early bird at Mud Creek 28 March (HC, ME); 6 at Chaney Lake 1 May (BF); 10 at Sauerheber 4 May (BY, MY); 11 at Long Point 10 May (BY, MY, MS, BP); and 1 at Melco 12-14 May (BP et al.).

**Dunlin** – reports of interest included small numbers at Sauerheber 19 April–20 May (CC) with a very modest peak count of only 10 there 4 May (CC); 6 e. of Long Point 22 April (RD); 2 at Melco 20-23 May (BP, EHu et al.); and at least 52 along Alzey-Uniontown Road, w. *Henderson*, 25 May (JMg).

**Sanderling** – the only report was of 1 on the sandbar downstream from Middle Bar, *Hickman*, 29 May (JBr).

**Baird's Sandpiper** – there were two reports: 1 at Parson's Pond 26 March (ph. FL) that represented a new early date for the state, and 2 there 31 March (ph. FL).

**Least Sandpiper** – 1 at Parsons Pond 12 March (ph. FL) was a very early migrant; peak counts for the season included 100+ at Mud Creek 8 May (HC, ME); 85 at Melco 18 May (BP); and a remarkably late high count of 105 at Obion WMA 30 May (†ME, HC).

**White-rumped Sandpiper** – 1 along the West Somerset Bypass (RD), 1 at Cave Lake (RD), 3 in *Anderson* (TA); and 3 w. of Cecilia (BP, RL), all 1 May, were the earliest to be reported; other reports of in-

terest included 3 at Parsons Pond 2 May (ph. FL) with 1 there 6 May (FL); 2 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 2 May, with 12 there 15 May (MBy, JBy); 1 at Minor Clark 3 May (ph. BWu); 6 along the West Somerset Bypass 4 May (RD); and singles at Melco 3-4 & 17-20 May (BP, EHu, et al.) with a peak count of 8 there 9 May (EHu et al.).

**Pectoral Sandpiper** – 5 at McElroy Lake 7 March (TD); 9 at Chaney Lake 9 March (BP, RL, BDa); and 3 at Parsons Pond 12 March (FL) were the earliest to be reported. Peak counts of interest included 150+ at McElroy Lake 21/26 March (TD); 400 at Sauerheber 23 March (JMg) with 1000 there 19 April (vt. CC); 500+ in the Pond Creek Bottoms 9 April (BP, EHu); 450+ in the Upper Hickman Bottoms 20 April (BP); and an impressive tally of 2000 at the w. end of Blue Pond, *Fulton*, 22 April (RD).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper** – 1 at Parsons Pond (ph. FL) and 2 at Minor Clark (ph. BWu), both 30 April, and 1 along John Gover Lane, Bronston, *Pulaski*, 1 May (RD) were the earliest to be reported. Modest peak counts included most of 75-100 peeps at Melco 14-15 May (BP) with 310 there 20 May (BP), 150 there 21 May (BP, RF, RBa), and 100 there 23 May (BP).

**Short-billed Dowitcher** – a relatively early bird was seen and heard calling n. of Long Point 21 April (ph. BP). Also reported were 8 at Sauerheber 4 May (CC); 6 along the West Somerset Bypass 4 May (RD); 4 at Parsons Pond 5 May (ph. FL); 6 at Melco 5 May (EHu) with 1 there 14 May (BDa); ca. 12 at Chaney Lake 8 May (BF); and 19 total (7 + 12) at and near Long Point, respectively, 10 May (BY, MY, BP, MS).

**Long-billed Dowitcher** – reports of interest included 3 at Long Point 19 April (HC); 2 at Sauerheber 19 April (CC) with 1 there 21 April (CC); 2 at the w. end of Blue Pond, *Fulton*, 22 April (RD, JDe); 8 along John Gover Lane, Bronston, *Pulaski*, 30 April (ph. RD); 1 at Cave Lake 1 May (ph. RD); 2 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 2 May (MBy, JBy); 17 total at Long Point 3 May

(MY, BY); and 1 at Parsons Pond 5 May (ph. FL). A flock of 17 dowitcher sp. at Long Point 28 March (HC, ME) were probably Long-billed by date.

**Wilson's Snipe** – modest peak counts included 75 at Sauerheber 21 March (CC) and 110 at and near Long Point 28 March (HC, ME).

**Wilson's Phalarope** – there were six reports: 1 at Long Point 22 April (RD, JDe); 3 s. of Sassafras Ridge, *Fulton*, and 5 at Long Point, both 3 May (ph. MY, BY); 2 at Sauerheber 4 May (ph. CC); 11 at Melco 9 May (ph. EHu, et al.) with 6 still there 10 May (EHu); and 1 adjacent to Obion WMA 10 May (BY, MY).

**Bonaparte's Gull** – reports of interest included 200 still at Cave Run Lake 11 April (BWu); 30 still on Ky Lake above the dam 21 April (BP); 1 at the Falls of the Ohio 25 April (BP et al.); and at least 40 on Lake Barkley above the dam 2 May (BP, RL).

**Laughing Gull** – there were two reports: an ad. at the Falls of the Ohio 28 April (DSt et al.) and an ad. at Ky Dam Village 10 May (BY, MY).

**Franklin's Gull** – there were two reports: a sub-ad. n. of Long Point 21 March (ph. HC); and 2 at Ky Dam Village 2/10 May (BY, MY).

**Ring-billed Gull** – reports of interest included at least 500 at Cedar Creek Lake 8 March (BP et al.); 350-400 at the Falls of the Ohio 7 March (BP); and 200-250 still at Ky Dam 2 May (BP et al.).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull** – 2 ads. and a third-year bird were at Craig's Creek 5 March (ph. BP) with an ad. still there 7 March (EHu); an ad. or third-year bird was at the Falls of the Ohio 28 April (DSt, ph. AG); a few birds continued in the vicinity of Ky Dam into April with 2 (first-year and third-year) at Ky Dam Village 2 May (BP et al.) and a first-year bird last reported there 5 May (BLi)

**Herring Gull** – reports of interest included at least 110 at Craig's Creek 5 March (BP); 93 at the Falls of the Ohio 7 March

(BP) with 38 there 28 April (DSt); and 25-30 still at Ky Dam 2 May (BP et al.).

**Thayer's Gull** – there were two reports: an ad. at Craig's Creek 5 March (ph. BP) with possibly the same ad. at the Falls of the Ohio 7/8 March (†BP/MW).

**Least Tern** – 1 along Alzey-Uniontown Road, *Henderson*, 25 May (JMg) was the earliest to be reported; also of interest were 3 along Uniontown-Mt. Vernon Road, *Union*, 30 May (JSo).

**Caspian Tern** – 1 at Lake Barkley, *Trigg*, 1 April (BLi) was the earliest to be reported; other reports of interest included 1 in the Pond Creek Bottoms 9 April (EHu, BP); a very modest peak count of 6 at the Falls of the Ohio 28 April (BDa et al.); 1 adjacent to Obion WMA 20 April (BP); and 2 at Melco 21 May (EHu et al.).

**Forster's Tern** – ca. 35 at Ky Dam Village 2 May (BP, RL) represented a very modest peak count for the season.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo** – 1 at Mt. Zion, *Pulaski*, 25 April (RD) was the earliest to be reported.

**Black-billed Cuckoo** – there were about a dozen reports: singles heard at Cherokee Park 28 April (RL, JBa) and 11 May (BDa, RBo); 1 heard at Mt. Zion, *Pulaski*, 29 April (RD); 1 seen at Beargrass Creek SNP, *Jefferson*, 30 April (MA); 1 heard at Craigmoor Estates, *Scott*, 2 May (DL); singles seen at the Lexington Cemetery (SPe, PG) and heard at McConnell Springs (SPe), both 5 May; 2 on the Anchorage Trail 6 May (JBe, PB); 1 heard at Asbury College, *Jessamine*, 7/11 May (SPe); 1 heard at Shaker Village 9 May (SPe et al.); and singles heard at LBL, *Trigg*, 9/12 May (BLi).

**Short-eared Owl** – there were reports from four locales: 5 at the former Camp #11 mine, *Union*, 1 March (BP, EHu); 2 at the Sinclair Unit 6/7 March (S&TG) with 1 last seen there 30 March (S&TG); 1 along Horseshoe Road, w. *Henderson*, 10 March (CC); and 3 at Sandy Watkins Park, *Henderson*, 15 March (KM) with 2 still there 28 March (CC).

- Common Nighthawk** – 1 at Morehead 28 April (BWu) was the earliest to be reported.
- Eastern Whip-poor-will** – singles at the Lexington Cemetery 5 April (SPa) and flushed during the day at Sally Brown Nature Preserve, *Garrard*, 8 April (AW) were the earliest to be reported.
- Chimney Swift** – 2 at Morehead, *Rowan*, 4 April (BWu) were the earliest to be reported.
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** – 1 at Berea College Forest, *Madison*, 9 May (GBo, JPe) was quite tardy.
- Merlin** – there were at least eight reports: singles at McElroy Lake 6/12 March (TD); 1 at the Reformatory Lake 7 March (EHu); 1 at Schochoh, *Logan*, 20/23 March (ST); 1 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 5 April (MBy, JBy); 1 at Bowling Green, *Warren*, 6 April (TD); 2 at McConnell Springs 3 May (†I&DF); and 1 at Shaker Village 4/5 May (†NaH).
- Peregrine Falcon** – there were only two reports away from known nesting territories: 1 at Sauerheber 5 April (CC) and 1 at Middletown, *Jefferson*, 16 April (MY).
- Olive-sided Flycatcher** – there were only two reports: 1 in e. *Calloway* 3 May (RH) and 1 at Cherokee Park 22 May (BP, RF, RBa).
- Least Flycatcher** – a relatively early bird was seen/heard singing at Long Point 21 April (ph. BP).
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** – there were five reports: 1 heard calling at Surrey Hills Farm 19 May (BP); 1 at Berea College Forest, *Madison*, 20 May (RF, RBa); 2 at LBL, *Lyon*, 23 May (BLi); 1 at Cherokee Park 22 May (BP, RF, RBa); and 2 heard at the Homestead Unit Peabody WMA, *Ohio*, 24 May (vr. RD).
- Alder Flycatcher** – there were seven reports of singing birds: 1 at LBL, *Lyon*, 2 May (MY, BY); 1 at McConnell Springs 10 May (SPe); 2 at Sauerheber 18 May (JMg); 1 at Douglass Hills, *Jefferson*, 19 May (MMo); singles at Green River State Forest, *Henderson* (CC), and at Surrey Hills Farm (BP), both 23 May; and 1 at the Jenny Hole Unit Sloughs WMA, *Henderson*, 25 May (JMg).
- Great Crested Flycatcher** – singles at Sauerheber 13 April (CC) and at LBL, *Trigg*, 16 April (BLi) were the earliest to be reported.
- Eastern Kingbird** – singles in *Trigg* 4 April (BLi) and near Dot, *Logan*, 8 April (ph. FL) were the earliest to be reported.
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** – there were two reports: 1 at LBL, *Trigg*, 22 April (ph. BLi); and 1 along Ezell Road, e. *Calloway*, 4 May (RH). No birds were seen at the 2013 *Webster* nesting locale this year (SN, CC).
- Loggerhead Shrike** – 3 were in farmland adjacent to Chaney Lake 26 April (BP, KOS).
- White-eyed Vireo** – 1 at LBL, *Trigg*, 1 April (JSo) was the earliest to be reported.
- Bell's Vireo** – reports of interest included 1 at Sauerheber 2-3 May (ph. CC) with 2 there 4 May (KH) and 2 there and 1 just nw. of Sauerheber 18/25 May (JMg); 1 at Ft. Campbell, *Christian*, 16 May (DMo); and 1 at Melco 19 May into June (ph. BP et al.).
- Yellow-throated Vireo** – 1 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 3 April (MBy); 1 at the Alpine Rec. Area, DBNF, *Pulaski*, 5 April (RD); and 2 at LBL, *Trigg*, 6 April (BLi) were the earliest to be reported.
- Philadelphia Vireo** – 2 at Mammoth Cave 26 April (DL) were the earliest to be reported.
- Red-eyed Vireo** – 1 at the Alpine Rec. Area, DBNF, *Pulaski*, 5 April (RD) was the earliest to be reported.
- Fish Crow** – reports of interest included calls heard (2-3 likely birds seen) in the Pond Creek Bottoms 9 April (BP, EHu) that represents a first for *Hopkins*; 2 at Kuttawa 30 March (B&JMr) with 1 there 21 April (RD); and 1-2 at the LBL Nature Station on several dates 30 March–17 May (JPt, B&JMr).
- Common Raven** – 2 at Buckhorn Lake Dam, *Perry*, during mid-March (SB) and

3 at the Knott County Sportsplex 29 May (RD) were not near known nesting locations.

**Bank Swallow** – 1 at Minor Clark 11 April (BWu) was the earliest to be reported.

**Barn Swallow** – singles at Pine Mt. SRP, *Bell*, 21 March (RD) and near Dot, *Logan*, 24 March (FL) were the earliest to be reported.

**Red-breasted Nuthatch** – following a dismal showing during the winter season, a few likely winter residents continued to be reported through March; only the slightest presence of migrants was noted with 1 at Craigmoor Estates, *Scott*, 1 May (DL) and 1 at the Lexington Cemetery 1 May (ALo, IH) and 2 there 4 May (TN, RO) being the latest to be reported. Also reported was a bird at the Rock Bridge, DBNF, *Wolfe*, nesting area 31 May (SPa).

**Brown-headed Nuthatch** – birds continued at the nesting area at Ky Dam Village through the season (m. ob.) with excavation of a presumed nesting cavity noted there 5 May (FR).



Brown-hd. Nuthatch at presumed nest cavity  
*Marshall*, 5 May 2014  
Frank Renfrow

**Brown Creeper** – a bird was observed carrying food and singing on the Rock Bridge trail, DBNF, *Wolfe*, 7 May (BP, AC, EL) with a bird seen and again heard singing nearby 8 May (BP, JDu, et al.). Also of interest was a report of 1 at Buckhorn Lake State Park, *Perry*, 22 April (CE) with 2 there the following day (CE).

**House Wren** – 1 at Shaker Village 1 March (†SPe) was possibly overwintering or a very early migrant.

**Winter Wren** – there were several reports of tardy birds: 1 at Pope Lick Park 24 April (JBe) and 1 at Boone County Cliffs SNP, *Boone*, 27 April (LO) with another or the same reported there 3 May (ERi, †R&TF, †B&RM).

**Sedge Wren** – there were three reports: 1 seen at Surrey Hills Farm 12 April (BP); 1 heard at the Sinclair Unit 7 May (S&TG); and 1 heard at the Long Creek Refuge, LBL, *Trigg*, 12 May (BLi).

**Marsh Wren** – there were reports from three locales: 2 at Adkins Swamp 17/20 April (HC, RD/S&TG); 1 at Spindletop Farm 2 May (ph. TN); and 1 heard at Long Point 3 May (MY, BY).

**Blue-gray Gnatcatcher** – 1-3 at six different locales 1 April (eBird data; m. ob.) were the earliest to be reported.

**Golden-crowned Kinglet** – singles at Bel-larmine University, Louisville (SW) and at Cave Hill Cemetery (BoJ, DSw, BBC), both 26 April, were the latest to be reported.

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet** – 1 at Lexington 14 May (DCh) was the latest to be reported.

**Eastern Bluebird** – spring inspections of nest boxes yielded confirmation that the extended period of cold weather resulted in some significant mortality in LBL (RP), at Lake Barkley SRP, *Trigg* (RP), and in *Oldham* (MCR).

**Veery** – 1 at Cherokee Park 24 May (BY, MY) was the latest to be reported away from nesting areas.

**Hermit Thrush** – 1 at the Lexington Cemetery 15 May (†DL) was very tardy.

**Gray Catbird** – 1 at Ft. Thomas, *Campbell*, 30 March (FR) was remarkably early.

**American Pipit** – 26 at Sauerheber 4 May (ph. CC); and 30 at Parsons Pond 6 May (FL) represented relatively tardy flocks.

**Cedar Waxwing** – the species remained very scarce until the middle of the first week of May, when flocks appeared state-wide.

**Ovenbird** – singles at Mammoth Cave (SK, JK) and at Rodburn Park, *Rowan* (BWu),

both 11 April, were the earliest to be reported.

**Worm-eating Warbler** – singles at the Lexington Cemetery 9 April (C&GT) and at Mammoth Cave 11 April (SK, JK) were the earliest to be reported. A nest was observed under construction at Mammoth Cave 17 May (†KO).

**Northern Waterthrush** – 1 sw. of Greenville, *Muhlenberg*, 9 April (S&TG) was very early.

**Blue-winged Warbler** – 2 at Mammoth Cave (JBe, PB) and 1 near Raven's Rock, DBNF, *Powell* (JMi), both 13 April, were the earliest to be reported.

**Golden-winged Warbler** – 1 at Pope Lick Park 30 April (JBe, PB) was the earliest to be reported; the species was well-represented during the first week of May but only in the western portion of the state (no reports e. of Louisville?), with reports of 1-4 birds at several locales in LBL, *Lyon/Trigg*, and in *Henderson* (eBird data; m. ob.); 10 total (4 at Ky Dam Village and 6 at LBL, *Lyon*), all 2 May (BP et al.) matched the state's one-day high count.

**Blue-winged x Golden-winged Warbler** – there were two reports of hybrids: a Brewster's Warbler along White Oak Creek, *Rockcastle*, 27 April (MTa, ET) and a likely back-cross hybrid at the Lexington Cemetery 4 May (ph. RO).

**Black-and-white Warbler** – 1 at LBL, *Trigg*, 28 March (BLi) was the earliest to be reported.

**Swainson's Warbler** – reports of interest included 2 along Big Caney Creek/Binion Ford Road, *Elliott*, 2 May (BWu, MMi); singles at Laurel Gorge WMA, *Elliott*, 2/20 May (BWu, MMi/BWu); 5 in the Red River Gorge Geological Area, *Wolfe*, 7 May (BP, AC, EL); and 1 heard at Obion WMA 30 May (HC, ME).

**Tennessee Warbler** – 1 at Cherokee Park 18 April (JBe, PB) was the earliest to be reported.

**Nashville Warbler** – 1 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 12 April (MBy) was the earliest to be reported.

**Orange-crowned Warbler** – the species was not as numerous as last spring; 1 at Pope Lick Park 5 April (RL) and singles at Blood River (HC) and at LBL, *Trigg* (BLi), both 15 April, were the earliest to be reported. Singles at Surrey Hills Farm 4 May (BP, MS), at Joe Creason Park, Louisville, 5 May (BWo), and at Doe Run Lake Park, *Kenton*, 9 May (DMa) were the latest to be reported; singles were also reported at nearly a dozen locales during the latter half of April (eBird data, m. ob.).

**Connecticut Warbler** – there were reports from two locales: 1 at the Lexington Cemetery 22 May (MTo) and singles heard/seen at Cherokee Park 22-24 May (BP, RL, CBs, et al.).

**Mourning Warbler** – 1 at Pope Lick Park 30 April (JBe, PB) was a bit early with perhaps the same bird seen again 4 May (JBe, PB, et al.); also reported were singles at Beargrass Creek SNP 3 May (BWo); at LBL, *Trigg*, 10 May (BLi); at Surrey Hills Farm 19 May (BP); at Owensboro, *Daviess* (MK), and at Sauerheber (CC), both 20 May; at Cherokee Park 22-23 May (BP, RL, et al.) with 2 there 24 May (BY, MY); at Lake Cumberland WMA, *Pulaski*, 23 May (RD); and at Blood River 25 May (HC).

**Common Yellowthroat** – 2 at Lake Cumberland WMA, *Pulaski*, 6 April (RD) and 1 at Pumphouse Pond, *Pulaski*, 7 April (RD) were the earliest to be reported.

**Hooded Warbler** – 1 at LBL, *Trigg*, 11 April (BLi) was the earliest to be reported.

**American Redstart** – singles at the LBL Nature Station 15 April (JPt) and along Whitaker Cemetery Road, *Pulaski*, 18 April (RD) were the earliest to be reported.

**Cape May Warbler** – 1 at the Lexington Cemetery 25 April (RO) and at least 3 at Mammoth Cave 26 April (TD, KOS) were the earliest to be reported.

**Cerulean Warbler** – 1 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 13 April (MBy) was the earliest to be reported.



- Northern Parula** – a tally of 40 se. of Mt. Zion, *Allen*, 13 April (MBy) was impressive.
- Blackburnian Warbler** – 1 on the Anchorage Trail 18 April (ph. AM) was the earliest to be reported.
- Yellow Warbler** – 1 at the end of Figgett Bend Road, *Hart*, 10 April (JSo) was the earliest to be reported.
- Black-throated Blue Warbler** – reports of interest included 1 at Fleming County WMA 4 May (BWu); 1 at Beargrass Creek SNP, *Jefferson*, 5 May (DSw et al.); 1 at the Lexington Cemetery 9 May (RO); and 1 at McConnell Springs 10 May (SPe).
- Yellow-rumped Warbler** – singles at two locales in Lexington 15 May (DCh & DL); at Bernheim Forest 18 May (NB); and at Mt. Zion, *Pulaski*, 19 May (RD) were the latest to be reported.
- Prairie Warbler** – 1 at Mammoth Cave 11 April (SK, JK) was the earliest to be reported.
- Canada Warbler** – 1 at LBL, *Lyon*, 2 May (JBe et al.) was the earliest to be reported.
- Wilson's Warbler** – 1 at Berea, *Madison*, 1 May (RF, RBa) was the earliest to be reported.
- Yellow-breasted Chat** – 1 at Green River WMA, *Adair*, 19 April (RD) was the earliest to be reported.
- American Tree Sparrow** – 2 at the Highland Creek Unit Sloughs WMA, *Union*, 30 March (KM) and 1 se. of Stanford, *Lincoln* to 2 April (ph. JE) were the latest to be reported.
- Vesper Sparrow** – 1 at the end of Figgett Bend Road, *Hart*, 16 March (JSo) was the earliest to be reported; other reports of interest included 10 along Henry Oates Road, *Muhlenberg*, 29 April (S&TG); 2 at Little Lick 1 April (ph. RD); 1-3 at Minor Clark 2-20 April (BWu, SPe); 10-12 total in w. *Henderson* 5 April (BP et al.); 3 along Frostburg Road, *Hopkins*, 9 April (BP, EHu); and 1 at the Ky Dam Village marina 20 April (BP).
- Lark Sparrow** – there were reports from four locales: 1-4 along McDonald Landing Road, *Henderson*, 14 April–30 May (ph. CC et al.); 1 at Ft. Campbell, *Trigg*, 24 April (DMo) with a pair at a different location there 16 May (DMo); 3 along Vance Road, *Warren*, 26 April (BP, KOS); and 1 n. of Murray, *Calloway*, 3 May (MMr).
- Henslow's Sparrow** – 2 at Surrey Hills Farm 12/16 April (ph. BP) were the earliest to be reported; other reports of interest included at least 4 at Raven Run Nature Sanctuary, *Fayette*, 30 April (JSw); 1 at the LBL Elk-Bison Prairie, *Trigg*, 17 May (BLi); up to 14 at the Bluegrass Army Depot, *Madison*, 11-12 May (TE, CL, et al.); and up to 14 at the Eastpark Industrial Park 7-26 May (BP, PD, VS, et al.).
- Fox Sparrow** – 1 at Sauerheber 9 April (CC) was the latest to be reported.
- Lincoln's Sparrow** – singles at Sauerheber 14/17 April (ph. CC) were the earliest to be reported.
- Swamp Sparrow** – 1 at Sauerheber 12 May (CC) was the latest to be reported.
- White-throated Sparrow** – 1 at the Lexington Cemetery 15 May (DL) was the latest to be reported.
- Dark-eyed Junco** – 1 at Catlettsburg, *Boyd*, 25 April (CT) was the latest to be reported.
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak** – singles at Murray, *Calloway* (ME) and at LBL, *Trigg* (BLi), both 15 April, were the earliest to be reported; 1 at Ft. Mitchell, *Kenton*, 22 May (DN) was the latest to be reported away from nesting areas.
- Blue Grosbeak** – singles at Schochoh, *Logan*, 11 April (ST) and at LBL, *Trigg*, 14 April (BLi) were the earliest to be reported.
- Indigo Bunting** – singles in *Trigg* (ph. BLi) and just sw. of Somerset, *Pulaski* (RD), both 4 April, were unusually early.
- Dickcissel** – 1 was at Eastpark Industrial Park 7-11 May (BP, JDu, EHa, EP, et al.) with 3 there 24 May (PD).

**Bobolink** – reports of interest included 35-40 at the WKU Farm, *Warren*, 26 April (BP, KOS); ca. 10 along Weaver Ridge Road, *Rowan*, 29 April (SF) with 40 there 30 April (BWu) and 7 still there 4 May (VS); 6 at Fox Chase Pond, *Wayne*, 30 April (RD); ca. 825 total along the levee in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 3 May (BY, MY); 13 s. of Flemingsburg, *Fleming*, 3 May (GW); 1 at the Eastpark Industrial Park 7 May (BP, AC) with 3 there 8 May (BP, JDu, et al.); 145 in the Lower Hickman Bottoms 8 May (HC, ME); 5 along Squib-Ano Road, *Pulaski*, 10 May (RD); and singles at Surrey Hills Farm 21/24 May (BP).

**Rusty Blackbird** – reports of interest included ca. 20 at South Williamson, *Pike*, 6 March (JC, LE); 2 at the Beaver Creek Wetlands above Cave Run Lake, *Menifee*, 26 March (BWu) with 9 there 30 March (BWu) and 4 there 12 April (BWu); 250 at Sugar Slough, *Henderson*, 27 March (KM); 5 at Minor Clark 2 April (BWu); 3 at Shallow Flats, Cave Run Lake, *Rowan*,

2 April (BWu) with 1 last seen there 1 May (BWu); and 1 last seen at Sauerheber 2 May (ph. CC).

**Brewer's Blackbird** – there were five reports: 2 females at Joe Creason Park, Louisville, 12 March (†SW); 19 along Holmes Bend Road s. of Green River Lake, *Adair*, 3 April (ph. RD); at least 35 along Pack Church Road near Bell Road, *McLean*, 5 April (BP, EHu); at least 60 along Frostburg Road, *Hopkins*, 9 April (BP, EHu); and a female at McElroy Lake 12 April (RD).

**Purple Finch** – very small numbers lingered from the winter season with a few likely migrants noted at several scattered locales during April.

**Pine Siskin** – after a near complete absence during the winter season, there were a few reports of likely migrants as follows: singles at Douglass Hills, *Jefferson*, 10/15 April (ph. MY/ph. MY) and singles at Berea, *Madison*, 18/22 April (RF, RBa) and 3 May (GBo).

**Observers:** Terry Anderson (TA), Ken Ashby (KA), Audubon Society of Kentucky (ASK), Michael Autin (MA), Samantha Bachelder (SB), Jamie Baker (JBa), Rebecca Bates (RBa), Jamin Beachy (JBy), Makaya Beachy (MkB), Marena Beachy (MrB), Matthan Beachy (MBy), Giff Beaton (GBe), Beckham Bird Club (BBC), Colleen Craven-Becker (CBe), Tom Becker (TB), Jane Bell (JBe), Pat Bell (PB), Julie Berry (JuB), Carol Besse (CBs), Neal Bogan (NB), Gretchen Bolton (GBo), Rod Botkins (RBo), John Brunjes (JBr), Laura Bryant (LB), Joan Carr (JC), Hap Chambers (HC), Don Chesnut (DCh), Dona Coates (DCo), Marge Constan (MCo), Amy Covert (AC), Charlie Crawford (CC), Mary Howell Cromer (MCr), Melodie Cunningham (MCu), Brian Davis (BDa), Brenda Dean (BDe), Gene Dennis (GD), Julie Denton (JDe), Roseanna Denton (RD), Scott Dickman (SD), Paul Drescher (PD), Jon Dunn (JDu), Tom Durbin (TD), Melissa Easley (ME), Tom Edwards (TE), Jackie Elmore (JE), Les Estep (LE), Chris Eversen (CE), Blaine Ferrell (BF), Ian & Deanna Ferrell (I&DF), Rob & Tyler Ficker (R&TF), Caleb Fligor (CF), Robert Foster (RF), Scott Freidhof (SF), Loran Gibson (LGi), Linda Glass (LGl), Alan Goldstein (AG), Pamela Graber (PG), Steve & Teresa Graham (S&TG), Kate Hannah (KH), Scott Harp (SH), Ed Harper (EHa), Robert Head (RH), Gay Hodges (GH), Ian Horn (IH), Nancy Houlihan (NaH), Charles House (CH), Nora House (NoH), Eddie Huber (EHu), Jennifer Huber (JH), Bob Johnson (BoJ), Brian Johnson (BrJ), Kentucky Ornithological Society (KOS), Mary Kissel (MK), Janet Kistler (JK), Steve Kistler (SK), Rob Lane (RL), David Lang (DL), Ellis Laudermilk (EL), Marjorie Lehman (ML), Bryan Lewis (BLE), Amy Lint (ALi), Bill Lisowsky (BLi), Chris Lituma (CL), Andrew Logsdon (ALo), Judy Lundquist (JL), Frank Lyne (FL), Scott Marsh (SM), Don Martin (DMa), Bill & Renee McGill (B&RM), Lee McNeely (LM), Bob & Jesse Meier (B&JMr), Andrew Melnykovich (AM), John Meredig (JMg), Keith Michalski (KM), Jessi Miller (JMi), Michael Miller (MMr), Mike Miller (MMi), Mark Monroe (MMo), Arlene Morton (AM), Daniel Moss (DMo), multiple observers (m. ob.), Tina Nauman (TN), Susan Neace (SN), Lauren Niemann (LN),

Dave Novitski (DN), Ronan O'Carra (RO), Linda Osterhage (LO), Ken Ostin (KO), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BP), Ed Pandolfino (EP), Steve Pavey (SPa), Robert Peak (RP), Sydney Penner (SPe), Jennifer Perkins (JPe), Charlie Plush (CP), John Pollpeter (JPt), Joshua Powell (JPl), Dave Pritchard (DP), Ed Ray (ERa), Scott Record (SR), Frank Renfrow (FR), Ethan Rising (ERi), Vicki Sandage (VS), Tanner Shepard (TS), Carol Sole (CS), Jeff Sole (JSo), Scott Somershoe (SS), David Stewart (DSw), Matt Stichel (MS), Del Striegel (DSt), Joe Swanson (JSw), Ed Talbott (ET), Michelle Talbott (MTa), Charles Thompson (CT), Mark Tower (MTo), Charles & Gretchen Tremoulet (C&GT), Steve Tyson (ST), Kelly Vowels (KV), Major Waltman (MW), Sean Ward (SW), Andrew West (AW), Barbara Woerner (BWo), Brian Wulker (BWu), Gale Wulker (GW), Antonio Xeira (AX), Ben Yandell (BY), Mary Yandell (MY), John Yeiser (JY).

## FIELD NOTES

### The March 2014 Flight of Red-necked Grebes

Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

The winter of 2013-2014 was the coldest in the eastern United States in about a decade. While December was not much colder than normal, successive intrusions of abnormally cold weather during the months of January and February resulted in average monthly temperatures of 4-6°F below normal for those two months. The extremely cold weather resulted in an abnormally high degree of ice cover on the Great Lakes. During a normal winter, about 50% of the surface of the Great Lakes can freeze over (NASA 2014); however, by mid-February 2014, about 88% of the surface of the lakes was frozen, including almost all of Lake Erie, Lake Huron, and Lake Superior (NASA 2014). By the first week of March 2014, ice cover reached its maximum, with slightly more than 92% of the lakes covered in ice (Rodman 2014). The last to have most of its surface freeze up was Lake Ontario because of its depth.

As ice cover on the Great Lakes increased early in 2014, mortality of waterbirds began to occur, while a mass exodus of many that normally ride out the winter period on open water commenced. During January 2014, unprecedented numbers of White-winged Scoters (*Melanitta fusca*) showed up on bodies of water at inland locations in the eastern United States including Kentucky; most of the birds in Kentucky were found along the Ohio River corridor from Louisville upstream to Ashland. These flocks included many adult birds as opposed to the immatures normally seen in the state. Also present during late January and February were higher-than-normal numbers of several of the more common diving ducks

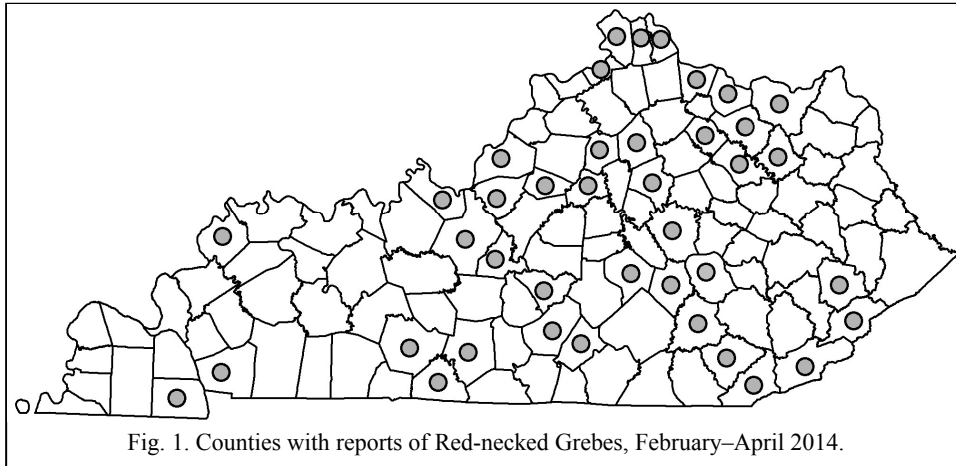


Fig. 1. Counties with reports of Red-necked Grebes, February–April 2014.

including Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*), Redhead (*Aythya americana*), Greater Scaup (*Aythya marila*), and Common Merganser (*Mergus merganser*). The largest numbers of these species also showed up in the northeastern portion of the state.

The last waterbirds to appear across the eastern United States, presumably from the last portions of the Great Lakes to freeze over, included relatively large numbers of Long-tailed Ducks (*Clangula hyemalis*) and Red-necked Grebes (*Podiceps grisegena*). The initial report of Red-necked Grebes in Kentucky came from Green River Lake, Taylor County, where Debbie Hamilton reported five birds 22 February 2014. The next report was for two birds at the reservoir at Jacobson Park at Lexington, Fayette County, by Lou Shain 4 March 2014. In the following weeks, checks of bodies of water across the state yielded an unprecedented number of Red-necked Grebes (Fig. 1; Table 1), most or all of which likely arrived during the first week of March. By the third week of the month, no fewer than 260 individuals had been found on nearly 60 bodies of water in Kentucky (Fig. 1; Table 1). A majority of grebes were found in the eastern half of the state, with only one to two individuals found on a few bodies of water in the western portion.

The more remarkable counts of Red-necked Grebes in Kentucky included at least 27 on Reservoir #4 at Lexington, Fayette County; 23 on Green River Lake, Taylor County; 16 on Cave Run Lake, Bath/Rowan counties; 15 on Martins Fork Lake, Harlan County; 14 on Laurel River Lake, Laurel County; and 13 on a lake at the Valhalla Golf Club in eastern Jefferson County (Table 1). In fact, more than half of the water bodies on which grebes were found hosted more than one individual. Once in place, it appeared that most of the grebes lingered where they were initially found for a few weeks, and individuals were still at several locales during early April. One that lingered on the lake at Long Run Park, eastern Jefferson County, was the last to be reported 25 April 2014 by Barbara Woerner.

Table 1. Red-necked Grebes Reported in Kentucky, February–April 2014.

County	Location	Peak #	First date	Peak date	Last date	Who first reported/Who had high count/Who last reported
Adair	Green River Lake	2	13 Mar	same	same	BP, EH, MY
Allen	Barren River Lake	1	15 Mar	same	28 Mar	BP, JS/same/MB
Anderson	Beaver Lake	2	9 Mar	same	same	NB
Barren	Barren River Lake	4	15 Mar	same	28 Mar	BP, JS/same/MB
Bath	Cave Run Lake	3	5 Mar	9 Mar	26 Mar	BWu/same/same
Bell	Pine Mountain State Park	1	21 Mar	same	same	RD
" "	Fern Lake, Middlesboro	1	21 Mar	same	same	RD
Boone	Gravel pit s. of Petersburg	1	9 Mar	same	22 Mar	LM/same/LM
" "	Camp Ernst Lake	1	15 Mar	same	16 Mar	JR & LM/same/LM
" "	Ohio R. near the mouth of Landing Creek	1	22 Mar	same	same	LM
Bracken	Ohio R. above Meldahl Dam	3	6 Mar	same	same	BP
" "	Ohio R. at Higginsport, OH	2	6 Mar	same	same	BP
Bullitt	Lk. Nevin, Bernheim Forest	1	8 Mar	same	5 Apr	SDi, DM/same/SDi
Calloway	Bailey Hollow, Kentucky Lk.	1	20 Mar	same	same	HC
Campbell	Ohio R. across from Dayton, KY (off St. Rose Church, OH)	2	5 Mar	same	6 Mar	WH/same/PL
Fayette	Jacobson Park	4	4 Mar	14 Mar	31 Mar	LS/RO/JL
" "	Reservoirs #2/#3	12	5 Mar	27 Mar	6 Apr	CF/BWu/SP
" "	Reservoir #4	27	7 Mar	16 Mar	16 Mar	RO/ASK/same
" "	Quarry nr. Spindletop Farm	1	14 Mar	same	same	DL
Fleming	Flemingsburg Reservoir	1	13 Mar	same	same	BWu
Franklin	Silver Lake	3	14 Mar	same	19 Mar	EL/same/KR
Gallatin	Craig's Creek	5	5 Mar	6 Mar	9 Mar	BP/BP/LM
Hardin	Lower Douglas Lake	10	8 Mar	21 Mar	8 Apr	ML/same/same
" "	Freeman Lake	3	9 Mar	same	3 Apr	S&JK/same/RH
" "	Paradise Lake	3	10 Mar	same	same	MS et al.
Harlan	Martins Fork Lake	15	13 Mar	same	same	JS
Jackson/ Madison	Owsley Fork Lake	7	6 Mar	same	2 Apr	RF, RB

Table 1 continued.

County	Location	Peak #	First date	Peak date	Last date	Who first reported/Who had high count/Who last reported
Jefferson	Ohio River	1	8 Mar	same	10 Mar	BD, J&PB, CB/same/BBC
" "	Valhalla Golf Club	13	10 Mar	11 Mar	same	GB, BP/ BP, MY/same
" "	Long Run Park	10	10 Mar	10 Mar	25 Apr	BWo/BP, GB/BWo
" "	Willow Pond, Cherokee Pk.	1	15 Mar	same	27 Mar	AL/same/JBa
" "	Bashford Manor Mall retention basin	1	19 Mar	same	same	SDe
Kenton	Ohio River at Covington	3	9 Mar	same	same	RC
Knott	Carr Creek Lake	5	21 Mar	same	same	RD
Knox	Barbourville City Park Lake	3	21 Mar	same	same	RD
Larue	Salem Lake	4	14 Mar	same	same	LA
Laurel	Laurel River Lake	14	18 Mar	same	same	RD
Letcher	Elkhorn Lake	1	21 Mar	same	same	RD
" "	Fishpond Lake	2	21 Mar	same	same	RD
Lewis	Ohio R. below Vanceburg	3	6 Mar	same	same	JBr
" "	Ohio R. below Manchester Islands	4	6 Mar	same	same	JBr
Lincoln	Cedar Creek Lake	4	8 Mar	same	same	BP, J&DE, EH, MS
Madison	Lake Vega	2	18 Mar	22 Mar	same	KW/GR/same
Mason	Ohio River above Maysville	6	6 Mar	same	same	JBr
" "	Farm Pond	1	7 Mar	same	same	BWu
Meade	Doe Valley Lake	4	17 Mar	same	same	BP
Nicholas	Lake Carnico	2	12 Mar	same	same	BP, EL
Rockcastle	Lake Linville	12	8 Mar	same	27 Mar	RF, RB/BP, EH, MS/RD et al.
Rowan	Cave Run Lake	13	5 Mar	9 Mar	2 Apr	BWu/same/same
" "	Minor Clark Fish Hatchery	1	9 Mar	same	same	MW, BWu
Russell	Lake Cumberland	1	15 Mar	same	same	RD
Scott	Lake Victoria	1	10 Mar	same	same	JS
Spencer	Taylorville Lake	1	10 Mar	same	same	EH
Taylor	Campbellsville City Lake	4	13 Mar	same	16 Mar	EH, MY, BP/same/JS
" "	Green River Lake	23	22 Feb	13 Mar	6 Apr	DH/BP, EH, MY/JS
Trigg	Lake Barkley at the mouth of Little River	2	20 Mar	same	same	JBr
Union	Ohio R. at Uniontown Dam	1	10 Mar	same	same	CC
Warren	Griffin Park	1	11 Mar	same	20 Mar	CW/same/F&AL

**Key to reporters:** Lyn Atherton (LA), Audubon Society of Kentucky (ASK), Jamie Baker (JBa), Rebecca Bates (RB), Nancy Barnett (NB), Matthan Beachy (MB), Giff Beaton (GB), Beckham Bird Club (BBC), Jane & Pat Bell (J&PB), Carol Besse (CB), John Brunjes (JBr), Hap Chambers (HC), Charlie Crawford (CC), Rodney Crice (RC), Brian Davis (BD), Steve Deetsch (SDe), Roseanna Denton (RD), Scott Dickman (SDi), Jackie & Diane Elmore (J&DE), Caleb Fligor (CF), Rob Foster (RF), Debbie Hamilton (DH), Richard Healy (RH), Eddie Huber (EH), William Hull (WH), Steve & Janet Kistler (S&JK), David Lang (DL), Ellis Lauder milk (EL), Patricia Lee (PL), Marjorie Lehman (ML), Amy Lint (AL), Judy Lundquist (JL), Frank & Alison Lyne (F&AL), Dax Manley (DM), Lee McNeely (LM), Ronan O'Carra (RO), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BP), Steve Pavey (SP), Keith Richardson (KR), Gary Ritchison (GR), Jeff Rowe (JR), Lou Shain (LS), Jeff Sole (JS), Matt Stickel (MS), Katheryn Watson (KW), Chad Wilson (CW), Barbara Woerner (BWo), Mike Wright (MW), Brian Wulker (BWu), Mary Yandell (MY).

The only other winter during the recent past when ice covered more than 90% of the Great Lakes was 1993-1994 (Rodman 2014). Not coincidentally, a similar influx of Red-necked Grebes occurred during February 1994 (Kaufman 1994), when one to five were found at seven different locales in Kentucky (Palmer-Ball 2003). The much greater number of reports during 2014 can probably be attributed, at least in part, to better coverage by birders, but there also must certainly have been a larger flight. Because Lake Ontario was the last of the lakes to freeze over, it is likely that the Red-necked Grebes were forced off that body of water. Lake Erie had become ice-covered several weeks before, and may have been the source of many of the White-winged Scoters. Also, the scoters, which typically dive to the bottom for invertebrate food, were probably forced off of the shallower portions of the lakes sooner. The Red-necked Grebes may be wintering in open water far from shore where their food, consisting of fish, may be obtainable without having to reach the bottom.

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- 8207 Old Westport Road, Louisville, KY, 40222 (brainard@mindspring.com).

**Observation of a Northern Rough-winged Swallow Nest in a Tree Cavity**

Frank Lyne

On the afternoon of 11 June 2014, while wading down a stretch of Whippoorwill Creek in southwest Logan County, I observed a Northern Rough-winged Swallow (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) going in and out of a hollow underneath a bend in an overhanging branch of an American sycamore tree (Figs. 1 & 2). As I approached this tree, an adult perched nearby long enough for me to take its picture. Inside the eye level hole, I could see two young swallows. They retreated as far back as they could before my first camera flash. The hole appeared to go some distance back in the nearly horizontal trunk and continued upwards into the smaller vertical trunk above the bend.



Fig. 1. Cavity in American Sycamore branch overhanging Whippoorwill Creek, Logan County, used by Northern Rough-winged Swallows for nesting during 2014.  
Photograph by Frank Lyne.

Returning the next day, I couldn't confirm the presence of more than one nestling still in the nest, but did see as many as five swallows perched in nearby trees. My nest photo from the second day revealed that the remaining nestling was sharing its dank quarters with a snail and a couple of centipedes. The remaining swallow was gone by the following day, and no swallows were hunting nearby.

A review of field notes revealed that I had seen five Northern Rough-winged Swallows in this general vicinity 23 June 2012, but did not find any nest at that time except an empty one on a cliff face. That nest was occupied by an Eastern Phoebe when I checked it 12 June 2014. The observation of Northern Rough-winged Swallows in this area previously suggests that they might have utilized the same cavity for nesting before.

This appears to be the first documented occurrence of Northern Rough-winged Swallow utilizing a tree cavity for nesting in Kentucky, and something of an unusual occurrence rangewide. Neither Mengel (1965) nor Palmer-Ball (1996) listed tree cavities among the known nest locations for this species in the state. Moreover, DeJong (1996) notes the use of "tree holes" as "rare" in describing nest placement across the range of the species. The key feature for site selection in Northern Rough-winged Swallows may simply be a horizontal hole in suitable foraging territory. They have been known to nest in a variety of natural and artificial holes including burrows excavated by other species, recesses in clifflines and vertical road embankments, and a Civil War canon (DeJong 1996), as well as plastic pipes mounted specifically to attract them (Miller 2011).

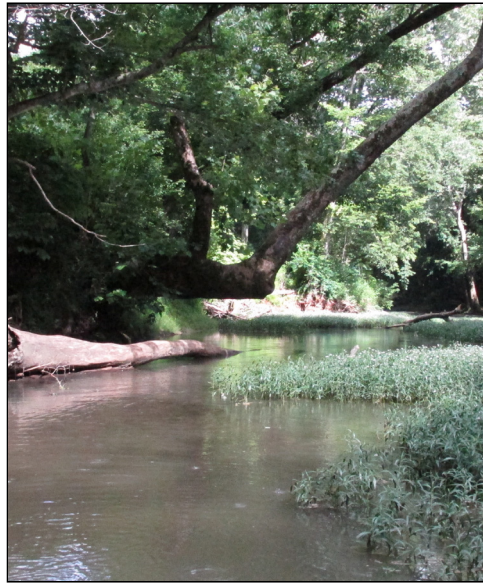


Fig. 2. Another view of American Sycamore branch overhanging Whippoorwill Creek, Logan County, used by Northern Rough-winged Swallows for nesting during 2014. The cavity was in the thick, horizontal portion of the branch, with the entrance on the right end. Photograph by Frank Lyne.

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## 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 address: [www.birdky.org](http://www.birdky.org). Please bookmark this web site address, as the former web site will be removed when the migration of all information 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 first web site 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.

**K.O.S. 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](mailto:scott.marsh@twc.com)).

**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](mailto: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.

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Red-throated Loon, *Fayette*  
10 March 2014  
Judy Lundquist



Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, *Trigg*  
22 April 2014  
Bill Lisowsky



Thayer's Gull & Lesser Black-backed Gull, *Gallatin*  
5 March 2014  
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.



Baird's Sandpiper (1 of 2), *Logan*  
31 March 2014  
Frank Lyne



American Avocet, *Hardin*  
25 April 2014  
Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.



Long-tailed Duck, *Jefferson*  
6 March 2014  
Eddie Huber