

2-1973

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The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

Vol. 49

FEBRUARY, 1973

No. 1



WILD TURKEYS

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

Organ 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. Membership dues are: Active or Regular, \$3.00; Contributing, \$5.00; Student, \$2.00; Life, \$50.00; Family, \$1.00 in addition to Regular, Contributing, or Life Membership dues. All articles and communications should be addressed to the editor. Subscriptions, memberships, and requests for back issues should be sent to the treasurer.

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OUR COVER

A reproduction of Ray Harm's artistic painting of the Wild Turkey is featured on the cover page. This past winter these fine birds have been making their appearance more frequently in such places as Land Between the Lakes (see Mid-Winter Bird Count elsewhere in this issue) and in Bernheim Forest.

SOME NOTES ON A BIRD FEEDING PROJECT*

DONALD SUMMERFIELD

The Beckham Bird Club undertook a study of limited control into the feeding choices of birds that were visiting the various members' established feeding stations.

This work included only those feeds that were easily obtainable commercially and made no effort to make any study of the feeds that were in any way of an exotic or especially prepared nature, even though it is recognized that feeds of the latter type are frequently useful in attracting or holding birds of certain desired species.

The project consisted of issuing 30 packages of prepared feed to members at intervals. These packages were of different mixtures and identified as type A, B, and C, and were composed of the following:

- 1) Type A—One third ground corn
One third ground wheat
One third rolled oats
- 2) Type B—One third ground corn
One third wheat
One third cane seed
- 3) Type C—One fourth ground corn
One fourth wheat
One fourth cane
One eighth sunflower seed
One eighth millet

Of the thirty packages distributed, twelve replies were received; one reply represented the observer's experience in watching birds at feeding stations for more than a decade. The accompanying chart or table represents the information returned by the members.

The acceptance of the feed at the feeding stations by the 24 species represented has been broken down into five basic classifications: I Most accepted; II Accepted; III Accepted as residual feed; IV Rejected; V Insufficient information.

Since the primary close range objective of this study was to assist members in the operation of their feeding stations, there are several observations which might possibly be made at this point, even though we should point out most clearly that much additional study is necessary before any information of a definite nature can be realized.

1) The most accepted feed of the "desirable" birds seems to be sunflower seed. Sunflower seed is sold on the market generally as "Large Gray," "Medium Gray," or "Black." No evaluation has been made of the relative merit of the different grades. Britton and Brown list some 37 species of

*Ed. note: This paper worked up in 1949 by the late Dr. Harvey B. Lovell and Donald Summerfield was given at a regular meeting of the Beckham Bird Club some 20 years ago. It shows an early effort to obtain factual data on bird feeding at established feeding stations. Perhaps many of us could add to this information with what we now know. Special studies and projects by biologists are being conducted today to determine just what grains or seeds birds choose at feeding stations.

Helianthus within its range. 2) The next most accepted feed (Class II) is cracked corn. No evaluation has yet been made of the acceptability of the grind. 3) Very little information is available on Class III (that which is acceptable as residual feed), presumably because of twilight or nocturnal visits to feeding stations by rabbits, squirrels, or other small animals. 4) The most rejected feed seems to be rolled oats. Following rolled oats as the most rejected feed would seem to be seeds of the genus *Holcus*, which includes cane, Kafir corn, etc. This evaluation is difficult to explain in view of its known feed value in the wild. 5) Classification V (insufficient information category) is the largest group and the one to which we all feel we already know the answers. The report is compiled, however, only on the basis of information received. Millet, generally considered a desirable and, incidentally, a somewhat expensive ingredient of good mixtures, falls in Classification V probably because its size makes close observation difficult.

	Med. Cr. Corn	Sun- flower Seed	Millet	Cane	Wheat	Rolled Oats
Mourning Dove	I	V	III	V	V	V
Yellow-shafted Flicker	II	V	V	IV	V	IV
Red-bellied Woodpecker	III	I	V	IV	V	IV
Red-headed Woodpecker	V	V	V	IV	V	IV
Hairy Woodpecker	V	I	V	IV	V	IV
Downy Woodpecker	V	I	V	IV	V	IV
Blue Jay	II	I	V	V	V	V
Carolina Chickadee	III	I	II	V	V	V
Tufted Titmouse	V	I	V	V	V	IV
White-breasted Nuthatch	V	I	V	V	V	IV
Carolina Wren	V	V	V	V	V	IV
Mockingbird	V	V	V	V	V	IV
Starling	I	V	V	V	V	IV
Myrtle Warbler	V	V	V	IV	V	IV
House Sparrow	I	II	V	III	II	V
Common Grackle	I	V	V	V	V	IV
Cardinal	II	I	V	IV	II	V
Purple Finch	V	I	V	V	V	IV
American Goldfinch	V	V	V	V	V	IV
Rufous-sided Towhee	II	V	V	V	V	IV
Slate-colored Junco	III	V	II	V	V	V
White-crowned Sparrow	I	V	II	V	V	IV
White-throated Sparrow	I	V	V	IV	V	IV
Song Sparrow	II	V	I	V	V	V
I—Most accepted	III—Accepted as residual	IV—Rejected				
II—Accepted	feed	V—Insufficient information				

There are several points of interest, however, that could be pin-pointed from the study.

a) The favorite feed of the House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) is not sunflower seed but cracked corn. If one has a House Sparrow problem, perhaps it could be overcome, in part, by operating two feeders a short distance apart, one containing cracked corn and the other sunflower seed to attract the more "desirable" birds.

b) The feeding habits of the woodpeckers should certainly be an interesting pursuit of anyone operating a feeding station in a wooded area.

c) The price of the mixture is no particular index to its acceptability; note the very wide range of acceptability of ordinary inexpensive cracked corn.

d) The visits of the Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) to feeding stations deserves close attention but it is probably a visit in search of insects incidental to the operation of the feeding station.

e) Of considerable interest in a broader perspective is the apparent dissimilarity of feeding preferences between birds in the wild and birds at feeding stations. This situation is pointed up by the low acceptability of the genus *Holcus*.

This project has pointed out the fact that much additional work is necessary to present any information of a comprehensive or conclusive nature. It is felt that the feeding habits or preferences of birds at feeding stations represents a considerable "gray" area in which a great deal of general information is available but an area in which exact or documented information is considerably lacking.

— 9910 Prairie Drive, Valley Station 40272

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT

1972-1973

Our 1972-1973 count is quite good and is the highest species count since the census of 1966-1967. A total of 177 people (not counting duplications because of participation in more than one count) took part this year, finding 110 species, plus one hybrid (Mallard x Black Duck) and six more for the period. Some unusual species appear on our lists: Greater Scaup, Goshawk, Peregrine Falcon, Black-capped Chickadee, House Wren, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Palm Warbler, Vesper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, and Lapland Longspur. Red-breasted Nuthatches are widely scattered and in good numbers. Evening Grosbeaks appear on only three counts, but have now spread from one end of the state to the other, with large concentrations in southwestern Jefferson County.

The editor wishes to thank the participants for their support and to again remind them to send detailed information on unusual birds for the season. This information is essential in order for us to keep our records valid and valuable.

THE LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Mulberry Flat Road and KY 453 (The Trace); Lake river shores 30%, fields 30%, deciduous woods 40%). — Dec. 21; 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Overcast all day; temp. 34° to 44°; wind NNW, 2-3 m.p.h. Eighteen observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours, 46 (16 on foot, 30 by car). Total party-miles, 231 (17 on foot, 214 by car). Total, 69 species, 125,789 individuals. (Seen in area count period, but not on count day: American Widgeon, Lesser Scaup, Golden Eagle (1 im.), Brown Creeper, Brown-headed Cowbird.)

Perhaps the most significant factor was the weather. Recent heavy rains had raised the lakes almost six feet, and this was at least partially responsible for dispersing ducks and geese, driving them out of otherwise

cozy bays and inlets with adequate food supply. Fields were soggy, dimpled with shallow pools, from some of which we flushed the Common Snipes, a rare species on this count.

Although once regularly found, the Great Blue Heron was the first reported on a Christmas Count in this area for many years. Similarly unusual were the Red-breasted Nuthatches; and Turkeys though obvious uncommon residents, have seldom been reported on the count. Sightings this fall and winter indicate widespread movement on the part of Turkeys and more frequent observations than usual. Perhaps the shortage of food (poor acorn crop, for example) may be a factor. The Red-headed Woodpecker boom of recent years has slumped although not to the pre-1967 rare status, and Loggerhead Shrikes are somewhat more regularly seen in the LBL than in previous years.

The Starling roost at Kentucky Dam continues to grow annually and now uses all of the perching area on the metal substructure below the roadway. Late comers perch almost anywhere on the superstructure. — Rusty Colvard, Larry Doyle, Joe Tom Erwin, Willard Gray, Nita Graham, Bob Head, Larry Lamely, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Madrey, Ray Nall, Clell Peterson (compiler), Lawrence Philpot, Ann Render, Patricia Render, Bob Smith, Paul W. Sturm, Carl Wallschlaeger, Jack Wilson.

MARION (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Forest Grove). — Dec. 31; 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Clear; temp. 30° to 45°; wind SW, 0-12 m.p.h. Two observers in 1 party. Total party hours, 11 (5 on foot, 6 by car). Total party-miles, 21 (6 on foot, 15 by car). Total, 40 species, 1725 individuals. (Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Catbird.)

The low duck count was disappointing. However, the three Bald Eagles (one immature, two unclassified to age) were of interest. The Catbird was found along a 300 foot honeysuckle fence row. — C. L. Frazer (compiler), Jim Frazer.

MADISONVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Madisonville, to include J. W. Hancock farm, Brown Road, Elk Creek, KY 892, 2 lakes near Madisonville; deciduous woodlands and thickets 50%, lake shore 30%, open fields 20%). — Dec. 31; 6:45 a.m. to 4:45 p.m. Clear; temp. 32° to 27°; wind SE, 5-20 m.p.h. Lakes open. Ten observers in 1 party. Total party-hours, 10 (8 on foot, 2 by car). Total party-miles, 43 (7 on foot, 36 by car). Total, 42 species, 1762 individuals. (Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Ring-necked Duck, Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, Horned Lark, Hermit Thrush, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, Myrtle Warbler.)

The chilly wind, as it became stronger, kept most land birds under cover. The few ducks observed may be due to increased hunting pressure and reportedly illegal hunting practices. Coots were present in good numbers. The big blackbird roost has moved away and its present location is not known. — Edward Barnes, Mrs. Lera Barnes, Chip Coffman, Mrs. Polly Coffman, Selby Coffman, James W. Hancock (compiler), Mrs. Sue Place, Dan Reasons, Mrs. Mary Travis, Mrs. Irene Wells.

PENNYRILE FOREST STATE PARK (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center park lodge, to include the park's deciduous and pine woods, fields, Pennyrile Lake, and adjoining farmlands). — Dec. 24; 6:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Heavy overcast; light rain in a.m. followed by snow. Six observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 14 (12 on foot, 2 by car). Total

party-miles, 30 (10 on foot, 20 by car). Total, 35 species, 348 individuals.

This was the poorest count in many years, perhaps due to weather conditions. The immature Golden Eagle observed by Andrews, Kemp, and Gray was identified by its large size, white tail with black rim, and white patches under wings.

The Red-breasted Nuthatch, Purple Finch, and American Goldfinch were in good numbers, but some of our more common species such as the Mourning Dove, Eastern Bluebird, and House Sparrow were not recorded. — Don Andrews, Frank Clayton, Willard Gray, Gregory Hancock, James W. Hancock (compiler), Chesley Kemp.

HENDERSON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center New Courthouse, to include Audubon State Park, Ohio River from mouth of Green River, north half of Diamond Island, keeping to Kentucky shore of Ohio River in agreement with Evansville Audubon Society). — Dec. 31; 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Clear; temp. 32° to 50°; wind, WSW, 6-12 m.p.h. Fourteen observers in 11 parties. Total party-hours, 86 (70 on foot, 16 by car). Total party-miles, 130 (30 on foot, 100 by car). Total, 58 species, 14,696 individuals. (Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Golden-crowned Kinglet.)

Five of the American Woodcocks were seen by Robert Bolds and Donan Jenkins, Fish and Wildlife Department officers. — King Benson, Robert Bolds, Davis Gatlin, Carol Gatlin (compiler), Donan Jenkins, Mrs. Ross Parsons, W. P. Rhoads, Virginia Smith, Judy Utley, Mr. and Mrs. Keith Utley, Mr. and Mrs. Ike Utley, Lora Wiley.

SORGHO (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Sorgho; open fields, woodlots, creek bottoms, and streams. This year high water forced some change in the areas normally covered). — Dec. 28; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Clear; temp. 30° to 46°; wind, 5-10 m.p.h. Six observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 15½ (14½ on foot, 1 by car). Total party-miles, 45 (10 on foot, 35 by car). Total, 43 species, 4,513 individuals. (Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Mallard, Black Duck, Marsh Hawk, Killdeer.)

A pleasant surprise was finding eight Brown Thrashers. Each winter this species has shown a slight increase and this may be due, in part, to a local planting of Multiflora Rose bushes. Bluebirds have also been increasing. — Joe Ford (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. Ramon Iles, Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Wilson.

YELVINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center US 60, approximately 2 miles east of Maceo; largely same territory as in previous years). — Dec. 30; 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Some rain; temp. 50° to 55°; wind, 15-20 m.p.h. Seven observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 16 (10 on foot, 6 by car). Total party-miles, 43 (8 on foot, 35 by car). Total, 39 species, 907 individuals. (Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Pileated Woodpecker.)

Due to a rainy and windy day our count was down. Portions of the Ohio River bottoms from Maceo to Blackford Creek along the River Road were too muddy to cover. Also, the Blackford Creek bottoms were flooded; so we were restricted to the main road. The points of observation along the Ohio River showed rough water, with white caps.

Mrs. Ray observed the Brown Thrasher in her yard. — Eleanor Iles, Ramon Iles, Mildred Powell, A. L. Powell (compiler), George Ray, Mrs. Marvin Ray, Danny Wells.

MID-WINTER

BIRD COUNT

1972-1973

	L-B-LAKES	MARION	MADISONVILLE	PENNSYLVIA	HENDERSON	SORGHO	YELVINGTON	BOWLING GREEN	MAM. CAVE N. P.	GLASGOW	OTTER CREEK	LOUISVILLE	DANVILLE	FRANKFORT	KLEBER	LEXINGTON	WILLARD
HORNED GREBE	5								*	2	1	1					
WESTERN GREBE								1									
PIED-BILLED GREBE	5		2					*			3	4	1	2		3	
GREAT BLUE HERON	1				3					2	1	1	4			9	
HERON (sp., probably Green)														10		13	
CANADA GOOSE	1200				327	2			4	4	67	203	18	55		41	
MALLARD	1100				300	*	25	27	4	4	3	458	18	17		7	
BLACK DUCK	690				100	*		3	60			278		1		10	
GADWALL	19						1					12				*	
PINTAIL	2											1				*	
BLUE-WINGED TEAL												26	1	18		*	
AMERICAN WIDGEON	*		1					*									
SHOVELER																1	
WOOD DUCK	5		1														
REDHEAD																	
RING-NECKED DUCK	9															6	
CANVASEACK																16	
GREATER SCAUP												18				8	
LESSER SCAUP												21		*			
COMMON GOLDENEYE	*	16	*		20			4				111		2		8	
BUFFLEHEAD	1											7				16	
OLDSQUAW	1		*													10	
RUDDY DUCK																	
HOODED MERGANSER	1		1									*		3		*	
COMMON MERGANSER	582				4					*		3					

MID-WINTER

BIRD COUNT

1972-1973

	L-B-LAKES	MARION	MADISONVILLE	PENNYRILE	HENDERSON	SORGHO	YELVINGTON	BOWLING GREEN	MAM. CAVE N. P.	GLASGOW	OTTER CREEK	LOUISVILLE	DANVILLE	FRANKFORT	KLEBER	LEXINGTON	WILLARD
WHITE-BR. NUTHATCH	25	2	1	2	2				25	1	20	23	2	3		1	3
RED-BR. NUTHATCH	3			10						2	3	26	1	1		2	
BROWN CREEPER	*			4		1	1	1	4	3	5	16	2	14	2	8	
HOUSE WREN																	
WINTER WREN				4	1		2	2	2	1	1	3	*	5	1	6	1
BEWICK'S WREN					1				2							5	
CAROLINA WREN	31	8	5	4	9	39	10	5	13	14	64	65	35	38	7	113	10
MOCKINGBIRD	7	22	9	4	29	49	9	47	8	42	34	86	83	21	6	64	1
CATBIRD		*									1	*					
BROWN THRASHER	3	2	1			8	1			1	1	3	3	2		3	
ROBIN	52	34	23	11	52	4	5		11	89	139	204	125	4	3	42	6
HERMIT THRUSH	2				2				2		3	1					
EASTERN BLUEBIRD	2				2												
GOLDEN-CR. KINGLET	21	14	8		58	20	28	1	26	44	40	59	46	16	1	49	3
RUBY-CR. KINGLET	7		*	8	*		2		26	2	13	8	*	18	5	11	5
CEDAR WAXWING	2	2			8				3	*	4	1		2		1	
LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE	1	16	*				1				26	24	24			8	*
STARLING	3	11			4	1		1	46	8	1	3	8			1	
MYRTLE WARBLER	120000	64	260	11	6173	1403	129	2000000	18	577	685	14559	1840	370	36	2354	
PALM WARBLER			*	2	6		2			4	15	1		3	1	23	
OVENBIRD																	
HOUSE SPARROW	34	200	19		1425	417	97	62		91	71	374	605	118	46	329	
EASTERN MEADOWLARK	173	38	54	3	36	107	4	46	1	125	140	126	82	28	6	25	
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD	45	32	2		100	5		250000		*	1	7051	2	2	2	1	
RUSTY BLACKBIRD								200000		140		27					

COMMON GRACKLE	14	80	4	4	4900	.330	2000000	4	372	13004	14379	209	16	13218
BROWN-H. COWBIRD	*	64	1	50			2000000			200	344	8	1	35
CARDINAL	124	150	30	31	129	210	63	78	62	129	533	248	275	66
EVENING GROSBEAK								25	57	37	3.			4
PURPLE FINCH	15		2	51	5					46	23	8	19	3
PINE SISKIN										1	111	*	105	11
AM. GOLDFINCH	85	3	9	27	7	18	63	17	18	25	457	65	93	26
RED CROSSBILL								10	28	15	84	3	15	1
RUFOUS-S. TOWHEE	64	38	9	6	15	62	12	17	2		5			28
SAVANNAH SPARROW										2				
VESPER SPARROW								84	65	111	289	420	116	249
SLATE-COL. JUNCO	234	250	49	47	75	36	142			1	12		3	66
TREE SPARROW						4				1				
CHIPPING SPARROW										1				
FIELD SPARROW	18	18	4	6	1	28	11	25	5	43	16	87	28	23
WHITE-CR. SPARROW		90	1		35	84	6	9	2	2	103	115	57	8
WHITE-THR. SPARROW	74	150	9	6	1	26	16	42	24	58	142	330	83	48
FOX SPARROW	3	2								1	5		1	1
SWAMP SPARROW	19		7	1	2			21	13	34	40	11	11	9
SONG SPARROW	102	40	11	5	14	126	32	70	3	27	226	366	123	71
LAPLAND LONGSPUR											2			102

DATE OF COUNT	Dec. 21		Dec. 31		Dec. 31		Dec. 30		Dec. 16		Dec. 17		Dec. 23		Dec. 16		Dec. 30		Dec. 26	
	21	31	31	24	31	28	30	16	20	31	22	17	23	16	30	16	30	30	30	26
SPECIES	69	40	42	35	58	43	39	45	46	58	64	85	50	61	33	74	22			
INDIVIDUALS	125789	1725	1762	348	14696	4513	923	4650869	959	2760	16598	45541	9698	3284	562	18830	190			
OBSERVERS	18	2	10	6	14	6	7	8	6	5	9	36	27	15	7	35	1			

An asterisk (*) indicates that the species was recorded during the count period, but not on the count day.

BOWLING GREEN (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Three Springs, 6 miles south of Bowling Green). — Dec. 16; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Clear; temp. 17° to 26°; wind NW, 2-12 m.p.h. Eight observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 20 (15 on foot, 5 by car). Total party-miles, 125 (14 on foot, 111 by car). Total, 45 species, 4,650,896 individuals. (Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Horned Grebe, Pied-billed Grebe, American Widgeon, Wood Duck, Oldsquaw, Turkey Vulture, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker.

The total species count of 45 is the lowest recorded in the past 12 years. Also, the weather conditions were the most undesirable for the past 12 counts. The most exciting discovery of the day was a *Western Grebe* at Grider's quarry, within the city limits. The bird remained for about two weeks, and several people had the opportunity to see and identify this unusual species. The size of the large roost, which has moved nearer to Bowling Green this year, was estimated at 4, 650,000 birds and made up of the following species: Starling, 2,000,000; Common Grackle, 2,000,000, Red-winged Blackbird, 250,000; Rusty Blackbird, 200,000; and Brown-headed Cowbird, 200,000. — Hayward Brown, Scott Ford, L. Y. Lancaster, Robert Pace, Homer Parrent, George Ray, H. E. Shadowen (compiler), Jacky Shadowen.

MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Turnhole Bend Drive-Out). — Dec. 20; 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Clear, varying from sunny to overcast; temp. 40° to 50°; wind (? - none given - Ed.) Six observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours, 31¼ (? on foot, ? by car - Ed.) Total party-miles, 98 (19 on foot, 79 by car). Total, 46 species, 959 individuals.

The 1972 Mammoth Cave Count had good weather, competent birders and, in comparison with past counts, very few birds. The largest flocks were those of Dr. Shadowen's 60 Black Ducks and 24 Evening Grosbeaks, hence the very low number of 595 individuals. The 46 species listed is slightly below the average for the park. The most uncommon bird was the Palm Warbler, which has, however, been found there on at least two previous Christmas counts. — Mrs. George J. Ellis, Jr., Mrs. James Gillenwater (compiler), Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Powell, Jr., H. E. Shadowen, Russell Starr.

GLASGOW (all points within a 15-miles diameter circle, center Beech Grove Baptist Church; same areas as in previous years, but concentrating on Beaver Creek area, northwest, west, and southwest of Glasgow; Brigadon area, South Fork area, Barren River Reservoir ramps, and the "slash" country; farms and roadsides 45%, woodlands 25%, lake sites 15%, creek bottoms 15%). — Dec. 31; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Overcast; temp. 45° to 38°; wind S, 12-25 m.p.h. Five observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours, 50 (44 on foot, 6 by car). Total party-miles, 62½ (11½ on foot, 51 by car). Total, 58 species, 2760 individuals. (Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Hooded Merganser, American Coot, Cedar Waxwing, Red-winged Blackbird.)

The Bald Eagle was an immature and studied at close range on the Skaggs Creek embayment of the Barren River Reservoir. — Mike and Nancy Barr, Marquita Gillenwater, Faye Starr, Russell Starr (compiler).

OTTER CREEK PARK (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center 2 miles southwest of park entrance, area as described 1972). — Dec. 22; 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Cloudy, slight mist in early a.m.; temp. 39° to

39°; wind N, 12 m.p.h. Ponds and river open. Ten observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours, 35 (23 on foot, 12 by car). Total party-miles, 103 (26 on foot, 77 by car). Total, 64 species, 16,598 individuals. (Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Killdeer, Herring Gull.)

This was our highest species count for the area — 64. The mild fall may have played a part in the number of birds observed this year. Hawks were well represented, with a fair count on Red-tailed and Red-shouldered. Fewer Myrtle Warblers were noted this year. A Catbird was seen at close range by Ann Norman and George Crabtree. The two Vesper Sparrows were found by William Rowe and John Westerman. Sue Hall and Mrs. A. G. Susie reported a Chipping Sparrow in company with Slate-colored Juncos. The red cap and black bill noted. White-crowned and White-throated Sparrows as well as Song Sparrows were about the same as last year, while the Cardinal was down about half. — George Crabtree, Joseph Croft, Sue Hall, Wilbur Jackson, Ann Norman, William Rowe, Anne L. Stamm (compiler), F. W. Stamm, Mrs. A. G. Susie, John Westerman.

LOUISVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center junction of Highways 42 and 22, area as described 1972). — Dec. 17; 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Partly cloudy; temp. 7° to 24°; wind light and variable. Still water frozen, light snow cover on ground. Thirty-six observers in 11 parties. Total party-hours, 75 (39 on foot, 36 by car). Total party-miles, 469 (84 on foot, 435 by car). Total, 85 species, 45,541 individuals. (Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Osprey, Snowy Owl, Catbird, Ovenbird, Red Crossbill.)

The Ohio River was at flood stage, causing scattering of waterfowl during previous week. A sharp drop in temperature during night before count froze all open still water, causing departure of some waterfowl located on these waters. This was an excellent year for northern birds, with appearance of Red Crossbills (during week), Goshawk, Evening Grosbeaks, Snowy Owl (during week), and Lapland Longspur, in addition to regular northern finches. A few normally summer birds may be wintering (Catbird during week, Ovenbird during week at feeder, and several Brown Thrashers). A heron, undoubtedly a Green, flushed along the river by Lawrence Smith, who was able to note only size and general dark coloration. The Peregrine Falcon was observed by Mrs. Robertson's party, well viewed flying along Ohio River. The Goshawk, an adult, was observed at close range by Anne Stamm and Joseph Croft. The Vesper and Savannah Sparrows were noted by the Monroe party at a previously unknown sparrow spot and may be regular winter visitors. — Leonard C. Brecher, Mrs. Glenn Bryant, Al Byrd, Mrs. A. H. Calvert, William Clay, Denny Cornett, George Crabtree, Joseph Croft, Sue Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Jackson, Joe Knight, Lois Massie, Burt L. Monroe, Jr. (compiler), Mrs. J. V. Muntan, Catharine Noland, Ann Norman, Nancy Offutt, James Pasikowski, Robert Quaife, Mrs. Charles Robertson, Combs Ruhe, Danny Ruhe, William Ruhe, Carl Schultz, Bernice Shannon, Bea Short, Mabel Slack, Lawrence Smith, Anne L. Stamm, Frederick W. Stamm, Chester Sundquist, Mrs. A. G. Susie, Audrey Wright, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Zollner, (Beckham Bird Club, Louisville Chapter K.O.S.).

DANVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Boyle County courthouse). — Dec. 23; 7:45 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Overcast all day; temp. 37° to 42°; wind, 0-8 m.p.h. Ground bare, no ice. Twenty-seven observers in 10 parties. Total party-hours, (? - none given - Ed.) Total party-miles, (? - none given - Ed.) Total, 50 species, 9,698 individuals. (Seen in

area count period, but not on count day: Cooper's Hawk, Eastern Phoebe, Bewick's Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Water Pipit (no details - Ed.), Pine Siskin.

We have had an unusually poor fall, especially for water birds. In general, birds were relatively inactive on count day. — W. C. Alcock, Barbara and Fredrick Brown, Al Byrd, Charlotte Caldwell, Dr. and Mrs. Harry Caldwell, Jackson Davis, Dena Elliott, Scott Glone, Mrs. Paul Gudgel, Edna and Frank Heck, Dorothy and West Hill, Mrs. Lavern Hunstad, Mrs. Arthur Jestër, J. W. Kemper, Ross Creamer, Jane Larson, Frederick and Naomi Loetscher, Michael Marsh, Mrs. Bowman Myers (compiler), Mrs. Virgil Reid, Craig and Jane Zimmerman.

FRANKFORT (all points within a 15-miles diameter circle, center at junction of US 127 and KY 1900, area as described 1972). — Dec. 16; 7:00 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Clear; temp. 12° to 24°; wind WSW, 19-27 m.p.h. Light snow cover, ice glaze on vegetation, water open. Fifteen observers in 9 parties. Total party-hours, 42 (29 on foot, 13 by car). Total party-miles, 151 (20 on foot, 131 by car). Total, 61 species, 3,282 individuals. (Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Canvasback, Great Horned Owl.)

Despite the cold and high winds this count set a new record — 61 species, although total individuals were about average. The 61 species is 10 above our 17 year average of 51.

Ducks were well represented though numbers were small. Only the most common hawks were found and no owls of any kind were noted. All woodpeckers were represented in spite of the high winds, with Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers more numerous than usual. Brown Creepers were plentiful and probably many were overlooked.

Cedar berries and other wild fruits are in short supply which may account for the few Robins and absence of Cedar Waxwings. Pine Siskins were present in numbers though Purple Finches were widely scattered. Blackbirds and sparrows seem about average this year. — Marvin Bing, Reva Ray Caine, William P. Caine, Sr., Douglas Carr, E. J. Carr, Peggy Sue Derryberry, Mrs. William H. Frymire, William Grayson, Charles Grayson, Martha Jane Harrod, Howard P. Jones (compiler), Mary Rose Kautzman, Mary Kathryn Pfouts, Lewis E. Pfouts, Pinkie Mae Richardson.

KLEBER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at junction of US 227 and KY 845 in Owen County; census conducted principally in the wildlife area itself, but included Kentucky River areas near Monterey and Elmer Davis Lake; deciduous woods 20%, cedar woods 10%, brushy fields 35%, fields and pastures 25%, and stream bottoms 10%). — Dec. 30; 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Cloudy, rain in afternoon; temp. 52° to 65°; wind S, 22-34 m.p.h. Streams open. Seven observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours, 18 (14 on foot, 4 by car). Total party-miles, 85 (9 on foot, 76 by car). Total, 33 species, 562 individuals.

This count was disappointing both from numbers of species as well as individuals. The weather, with a low moving in, may have accounted for the quietness to some extent, but not altogether.

No waterbirds were found on Elmer Davis Lake since the lake was 30 to 40 feet below normal as a result of leaks in the dam. The Robins, Purple Finches, Myrtle Warblers, and Golden-crowned Kinglets, usually present in numbers in the cedars, were almost totally absent. Few sparrows, with the exception of Song Sparrows, could be found. — Marvin Bing, William C.

Caroland, James S. Durell, Howard P. Jones (compiler), Mary Rose Kautzman, Margaret La Fontaine, Pete Lynch.

LEXINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center East Hickman on Bates Creek Pike, to include 23 miles of the Kentucky River, 4 Lexington reservoirs, Nicholasville, University of Kentucky Experimental Farm; surface water 2%, deciduous woods 3%, towns and suburbs 4%, pastures, cultivated lands, hedgerows, and farm lots 91%). — Dec. 30; 6:45 a.m. to 5:25 p.m. Overcast, occasional showers; temp. 52° to 65°; wind S, 0-33 m.p.h. Thirty-five observers in 15 parties. Total party-hours, 78 (33 on foot, 45 by car). Total party-miles, 421 (27 on foot, 394 by car). Total, 74 species, 18,830 individuals. (Seen in area during count period, but not on count day: Pintail, Blue-winged Teal (no details - Ed.), Common Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser.

The unusually mild temperature may have contributed to our having the largest Christmas count — 74 species. Also, more people were counting birds. The four large lagoons of the new Hickman Creek sewage disposal plant located on the Ash Grove Pike have attracted eight species of water birds which formerly were observed more frequently at the Lexington Reservoirs. The House Wren was carefully observed several minutes by Robert Morris and William Woodward. — Ellen Allen, Mrs. W. R. Allen, Janet Barclay, Mrs. A. E. Baxter, Mary Burns, Betsy Davis, Brian T. Davis, Dean Davis, Ruth Davis, Lyda Feck, Michael Flynn, Lewis Francis, Gretchen Gibson, Douglas Henderson, Darrell W. Hoskins, Maudie Hurt, Colin Hyde, Austin Lilly, Betty Maxson, Charles Maxson, Louise Maxson, Bernice McClure, Robert Morris, Frank Pattie, Richard Ramsdell, Sarah Ramsdell, Alfred Reece (compiler), Virginia Reece, Joyce Robbins, Barbara Ruff, Connie Schwein, Ricky Schwein, Conley Webster, James Wood, William Woodward.

WILLARD (same territory, with little change, since first census made in 1937; area is through creek bottoms, fields, and woodlands). — Dec. 26; 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Overcast; temp. 38° to 34°; some snow on wet ground. One observer. Total party-hours, 8 (8 on foot, 0 by car). Total party-miles, 8 (8 on foot, 0 by car). Total, 23 species, 190 individuals. (Seen in area count period, but not on count day: Screech Owl, Barred Owl, Cedar Waxwing).

The weather may have been a factor in the small number of birds sighted on my usual eight-mile walk. Although only six Robins were seen on the census, 50 were seen during the count period. Also, 30 Cedar Waxwings were seen during the week. No Evening Grosbeaks have been seen in Willard, but a sighting of 15 birds at Grayson, in mid-December, has been reported. — Erceel Kozee (compiler).

NOTES FROM BELL COUNTY

RAY HARM

Although my field studies have been limited since living in Bell County, I have made some observations on waterfowl, which seem worthy to record.

I have a private lake, exactly three acres of surface area, and it is located between Log Mountain and Pine Mountain off Big Clear Creek near Chenoa, Kentucky. It is about 20 feet deep on the low side and tapers into two forks at the tailing. The south edge is mixed pine and deciduous trees on a rather steep incline supporting my house and a barn some 300 feet apart. The edges have growth of some cat-tails (*Typha latifolia*), arrow-head (*Sagittaria latifolia*), and sedges (*Scirpus pedicellatus* and *S. validus*). The lake is four years old and has started some growth of pondweed (*Potamogeton* sp.) and although waterfowl usually feed heavily upon this plant, I plan controlling it. The house was moved to the edge of the lake this past fall and, although the barn has stood on its edge since the building of the lake, I don't know how much of a deterrent it will be in the lake's attracting migrating waterfowl. (However, we had a wild Black Duck (*Anas rubripes*) remain the entire winter (1971-72) with two domestic white ducks we keep.)

The lake normally attracts what one would expect: Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*) nest successfully each summer in some Virginia pines, just up the hill from the water's edge; Belted Kingfishers (*Megasceryle alcyon*) are usually fishing the edges; Spotted Sandpipers (*Actitis macularia*) show up occasionally (mid-July on), while wandering Great Blues (*Ardea herodias*) make appearances in the summer, and Osprey's (*Pandion haliaetus*) fish the lake on occasion. I have only seen Common Egrets (*Casmerodius albus*) once (mid-August, 1972) and three were present at that time. As one would expect, Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) nest each year in bullrushes, and the lake attracts multitudes of Barn Swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) which nest in the barn and under overhangs of our house. By the time the young have fledged in July, we often have notable flocks in continuous flight over the lake dipping into the water repeatedly. This is enhanced with Purple Martins (*Progne subis*) doing likewise.

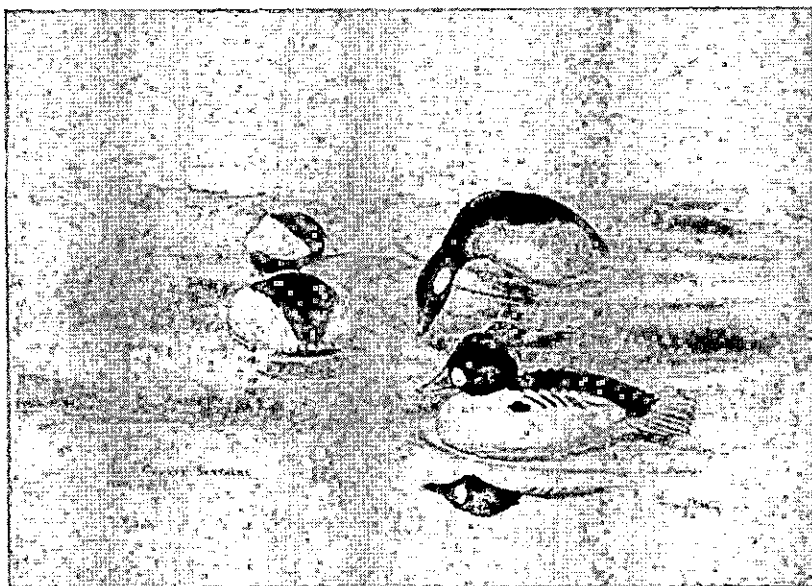
With the absence of natural lakes in east Kentucky and aquatic situations confined at best to moving streams and some alluvial swampy situations here and there, the few man-made impoundments should be of interest to avian reporting because of their attraction to migratory waterfowl over mountainous areas. Such impoundments quite possibly may turn up species not heretofore expected or recorded in the area. The Canvasback (*Aythya valisineria*), for example, was a surprise to me on such a tiny lake as was a Whistling Swan (*Olor columbianus*) that we recorded one foggy spring morning on March 8, 1971. A female Canvasback was also noted on March 24, 1970. Other sightings equally as surprising include the following: Green-winged Teal (*Anas carolinensis*), two male birds, March 11, 1970; American Widgeon (*Mareca americana*), two male birds, March 3, 1969; Redhead (*Aythya americana*) (18 both sexes) on March 3, 1969; Common Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*) (three male, one female) on March 15, 1970, and one on November 23, 1972; Bufflehead (*B. albeola*), a female on March 11,

1970, and a pair on November 23, 1972. Although our own little lake to date has been shy of Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*) they turn up with some regularity at the Chenoa Lake about a mile east of us as do Ring-necked Ducks (*Aythya collaris*) and Lesser Scaups (*A. affinis*). Great Blue Herons are commonly known among the local mountain people along Big Clear Creek here, as are our Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*) and "diedappers." Although the Lesser Scaup and Ring-necked Ducks come with some regularity, along with American Coots (*Fulica americana*) and Pied-billed Grebes (*Podilymbus podiceps*), I didn't expect to find the Redhead and Goldeneye. We also get Ruddy Ducks (*Oxyura jamaicensis*) and Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*), especially the latter species.

It may be well to mention that four immature Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*) were seen at the lake, junction Highway 25E and entrance to Pine Mountain State Park, April 2, 1970. Also, a Bonaparte's Gull (*L. philadelphia*) was recorded at my private lake, November 23, 1972.

In view of the fact that Robert M. Mengel in his *Birds of Kentucky* (1965) states that the American Widgeon, Redhead, Canvasback, Goldeneye, and Bufflehead have not been recorded from the Cumberland Plateau, these observations may be of some significance.

— Chenoa, Kentucky 40925



BUFFLEHEADS AND COMMON GOLDENEYE

Reproduction (polaroid shot) of an original Ray Harm field drawing, from life, in water-color, of the birds that appeared at his lake, November 23, 1972.

SHOREBIRDS OBSERVED NEAR HAWESVILLE, HANCOCK COUNTY, KENTUCKY

FRED J. ALSOP, III

The recent industrialization of Hancock County's bottomlands bordering the Ohio River has created some attractive feeding and resting habitat for herons, waterfowl, and shorebirds. Perhaps the best of these are the large settling basins at the Western Kraft paper mill in the Skillman Bottoms west of Hawesville, Kentucky. Here a squarish six to ten acre basin has been constructed in the flat flood plain. The basin is surrounded by a dike with a road on top providing an easy means for birding in the basin as well as an excellent vantage point for observations of the surrounding lowlands. The large basin is bisected by a levee road dividing it north to south. The eastern basin thus created by the central dike has several short levees extending at right angles into the body of water from the bordering dikes. These rise approximately 18 inches above the surface of the water and are almost devoid of vegetation. It was on the latter that most of the following observations were made.

My initial visit to the basins on September 7, 1972, with Oswaldo Roig and Fred J. Alsop, Jr., produced nine species of shorebirds feeding and resting on the short dikes (see the table). The three of us returned to the basins on September 10 and recorded 13 species of shorebirds on the levees, and a final check by me on September 14 located seven species.

Thirteen of the 15 species observed during the three visits to the basins had not been recorded previously in Hancock County (Alsop, *Ky. Warbler*, 47:59-70, 1971). Of these the Piping Plover, White-rumped Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, and Dunlin are listed as rare in the state by Mengel (*The Birds of Kentucky*, 1965) and Monroe (*Ky. Warbler*, 45:47-56, 1969). The Dunlins on September 10 are four days earlier than Monroe's (1969) extreme fall record of September 14. The Western Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, and the Sanderling are given a status of rare (Mengel, 1965) to uncommon (Monroe, 1969) in Kentucky.

There seemed to be little urgency exhibited by the birds to push southward as the numbers of some of the individuals, with the exception of the Killdeers, remained the same during two or more of my visits. The two

Shorebirds Observed at Western Kraft's Settling Basins, Hancock County, Kentucky

Species	6 p.m. Sept. 7	6 p.m. Sept. 10	10 a.m. Sept. 14
SEMPALMATED PLOVER <i>Charadrius semipalmatus</i>	2	3	
PIPING PLOVER <i>C. melodus</i>			1
KILLDEER <i>C. vociferus</i>	18	12	20
SPOTTED SANDPIPER <i>Actitis macularia</i>	2		
SOLITARY SANDPIPER <i>Tringa solitaria</i>		1	
LESSER YELLOWLEGS <i>Totanus flavipes</i>		2	
PECTORAL SANDPIPER <i>Erolia melanotos</i>	2	1	1
WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER <i>E. fuscicollis</i>		2	
BAIRD'S SANDPIPER <i>E. bairdii</i>	3	2	2
LEAST SANDPIPER <i>E. minutilla</i>	4	7	5
DUNLIN <i>E. alpina</i>		8	8
STILT SANDPIPER <i>Micropalama himantopus</i>		1	
SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER <i>Ereunetes pusillus</i>	9	15	10
WESTERN SANDPIPER <i>Ereunetes mauri</i>	5	1	
SANDERLING <i>Crocethia alba</i>	2	2	

Sanderlings seen on September 7 and again on the tenth were most likely the same birds, and a study of the table would indicate the same to be true of the Dunlins and several other species.

On each occasion the birds were easily approached and each individual was checked with 7x35 binoculars and a 15 to 60X zoom spotting scope at ranges varying from 150 to 35 feet. I feel the identifications were as accurate as was possible without having the birds in hand. I have seen all the species listed in the table in the field and had photographed six of them including the Baird's, White-rumped, and Stilt Sandpipers two months prior to these sightings on their breeding grounds in the Arctic (this is mentioned only because of the rare status in Kentucky of several of the species observed).

Several factors, alone or in combination, might explain the presence of this variety of species and number of individuals during the eight day period of observation: 1) the extremely poor nesting conditions in the Arctic this summer resulting in many species summering south of their normal breeding grounds; 2) the cold fronts with northerly winds which passed through Kentucky during the period of observation; or 3) the newly created feeding and resting shorebird habitat of the settling basins adjacent to the Ohio River, which many birds may follow in their migrations.

In addition to the shorebirds, 11 Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*) and a pair of Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*) were present in the basins on September 7; seven Wood Ducks were there on September 10; and 17 Blue-winged Teal were seen during the check of the area on September 14.

— East Tennessee State University, Kingsport, Tennessee 37660.

(Ed. note: We are pleased to have these records since very little has hitherto been recorded in print on the shorebirds of this area. Although Mengel's book was published in 1965, his field work was completed in 1952. In the intervening 20 years the development of competent observers has brought to light the existence of many species in areas which Mengel alone could not cover, e.g., Western, Baird's, and Stilt Sandpipers as well as Dunlin and Sanderlings are observed each autumn at the Falls of the Ohio, Louisville, so are no longer considered "rare in the state.")

FIELD NOTES

A SIGHT RECORD OF THE WESTERN GREBE

On November 1, 1972, I was looking over the waterfowl that swam about on the Ohio River, east of the Pennsylvania Railroad Bridge on the Indiana side. Suddenly I saw a large bird that sat high and erect on the water. Its neck was white and long; the top of the head, back of neck, and back were rather dark, with white underparts. The bird was much larger than a Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) which was seen nearby and made an interesting comparison. Also, the bill was much longer. The bird was identified as a Western Grebe (*Aechmophorus occidentalis*). A "bird alert" was put into motion and within a short period of time a number of other Beckham Bird Club members had an opportunity to observe this unexpected western species. The grebe was last seen in the late afternoon of November 2. — Mrs. C. A. ROBERTSON, River Hill Road, Louisville 40207.

NEWS AND VIEWS

RED CROSSBILLS INVADE KENTUCKY

Apparently this is a flight year (winter 1972-73) for the erratic Red Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) since a number of records have come to the editor's attention. The first report came from Ann Bowne of Owensboro, Kentucky. She saw two male and five female or immature birds on November 5, 1972, in Cloverport, Breckenridge County. Walter Sikora reported 20 to 25 birds feeding on pine cones in Red River Gorge (Wolfe County) on November 11. Jon Rickert, Elizabethtown, called to say he had



Red Crossbill at Bird Bath.
Photo by Dr. Herbert Clay

found 10-12 of this species at Bernheim Forest, Bullitt County, December 3. A group of birds, approximately the same number, were still there on January 25 and observed by Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth P. McConnell. Two to six Red Crossbills appeared occasionally at the bird feeder at the Dr. Herbert Clay residence, in Louisville, between January 7 and January 16, 1973. The accompanying photograph, made from a color transparency, was taken by Dr. Clay. During the week of December 17 one bird was seen by Dr. Burt L. Monroe, Jr., in Anchorage. It is quite possible that the Red Crossbills arrived in Kentucky in October (1972) since four finches flew over head in Bernheim Forest on October 22 when the Beckham Bird Club (Louisville Chapter K.O.S.) conducted a field trip there. Dr. Monroe, leader of the group, said at the time that he felt the birds were crossbills judging by their notes, but

they were not seen well enough to clearly identify. The editor welcomes hearing of other sightings of this species.

KOS ANNIVERSARY

The fiftieth annual Spring Meeting (50th anniversary) will be held May 11 to 13, 1973, in Louisville. This city was the site of the founding. Plans are in the making for a great weekend; so plan now to attend this historical event.

FALL MEETING

It has been necessary to change the date and place of our Fall Meeting because of previous reservations. The meeting is now planned for September 28-30, 1973, at Kenlake State Resort Park. This will be a joint meeting with the Kentucky Department of Parks. Warbler migration should be in full swing. Mark your calendar now!