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## Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 59, no. 3)

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# The Kentucky Warbler

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## IN THIS ISSUE

THE SPRING SEASON OF 1983, Anne L. Stamm .....	39
KENTUCKY'S 1983 EAGLE CENSUS, Anne L. Stamm and James S. Durell .....	45
FIELD NOTES .....	47
BOOK REVIEW: BIRD SPECIES ON MINED LAND, by Pierre Allaire (Reviewed by Herbert E. Shadowen) .....	47
NEWS AND VIEWS .....	48

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## THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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Editor ..... B. R. Ferrell, Biology Department, Western Kentucky Univ.,  
Bowling Green 42101

Assistant Editor ..... Herbert E. Shadowen, Bowling Green

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## OUR COVER

The gifted ability of our staff artist, Ray Harm, is once again displayed in his painting of the Bald Eagle.

## THE SPRING SEASON OF 1983

ANNE L. STAMM

Warm weather characterized March, but April was cold, with temperatures averaging almost five degrees below normal. Record low temperatures were set in the 20's all across the state on April 19. The lowest reading was 22 degrees at Cynthiana. Louisville set a new record low with 27 degrees. May was cool also, and it was the wettest May in history. Precipitation totaled 10.58 inches, whereas 4.20 inches is normal. The heavy rainfall and wind storms caused much flooding. Some 40,000 acres of flood plain between Wickliffe and Hickman were totally flooded. Rainfall during the night of May 14 totaled four inches in Todd County. Shorebird habitat was inundated in early May in western Kentucky. In central Kentucky the heavy rains created ideal shorebird habitat in low lying fields.

The cool weather pattern retarded migration, however, a few species arrived on schedule during the warm fronts in March. The majority of birds were late. Ground nesting species undoubtedly suffered losses. Two tower kills on May 8 and 14 at Campbellsville were probably storm related. Fourteen of the 23 species recovered were warblers.

The Wood Stork, Long-billed Dowitcher, Marbled Godwit, Franklin's Gull, and Mississippi Kite were some of the more unusual sightings.

A number of nesting reports were included in the spring reports; these will be included in the summer summary.

*Loons through Bitterns* — Common Loons were reported more frequently than normal from nine widely scattered locations, with numbers of one to six; earliest record, April 4 at Kentucky Lake (JEr) and latest, May 15 at Oldham County Park (JC), Long Run County Park Lake (S, FS) and Green River (JEl). Horned and Pied-billed Grebes were scarcely mentioned in reports and were in low numbers. Double-crested Cormorants appeared at three locations: 8 at Ballard Waterfowl Management Area (hereafter BWMA), April 19 and 10 at Lake #9, Fulton County (JEl); four in Daviess County on May 7 (M. & J. Brown *vide* AP). Herons were late in arriving: Green Herons first sighted on April 9 at the Frankfort Fish Hatchery (KCa) and in Madisonville area on April 16 (JH); scarce in Danville and the Louisville area (FL and S, respectively). A single Little Blue Heron at the transient lakes, south of Bowling Green on April 23 was the only one reported (BPB). Cattle Egrets passed through in good numbers, with the earliest (6 birds) on April 20, near Hickman (JEl) and a flock of 33 at Kentucky Lake on April 29 (JEr); all other records were in May, with the latest on May 15 at Curdsville (RI) and Somerset (JEl). Flocks of 30 to 50 were reported south of Owensboro (*vide* AP); smaller groups at Madisonville (JH) and Falls of the Rough (KCl) and one to two birds at three locations in the Louisville area (VR, BM, DN). Great Egrets were widely scattered from Calloway County to Rockcastle County. A single Snowy Egret was recorded at the Falls of the Ohio on April 7 (JC). Black-crowned Night Herons arrived late; 20-24 at Falls of the Ohio, April 1 (BPB, DN). The birds disappeared for a period of time in early May when high water covered the rock ledge, but were back by May 31, with 62-65 there (LR, JC); 2 at Oakhill Lake, Somerset, April 8 (JEl). The 10 Yellow-crowned Night Herons at Lexington were the only ones reported (RM). Least Bitterns, as usual, were scarce: one at Louisville, May 9 (DN, BPB, *et al.*); and a dead bird picked up in the Owens-

boro area (*vide* AP). Single American Bitterns were encountered at Louisville, May 8 (J. Carusco *vide* DN) and May 11 (DN, BPB); and near Owensboro, May 7 (*vide* AP). A Wood Stork at the Minor Clark Fish Hatchery on April 30 was extraordinary (FB).

*Waterfowl* — The waterfowl migration was disappointing and large concentrations were not seen. Dabbling ducks were generally in low numbers and late in arriving. The diving ducks fared better, but in lower numbers than last spring. Little movement of the northward migration was observed; a flock of 25 Canada Geese were flying over Louisville on March 5 (WJ) and a few stragglers were last observed on April 8 at Danville (FL). As expected, a few species lingered into May. Blue-winged Teal were late and small numbers arrived at Louisville, March 26 (S, FS) and at Frankfort, March 27 (KCa), but were everywhere at BWMA on April 1 (KCa); 25 at East Bend, April 24 (LMc) and at Elk Creek, May 2 (JH). Eight Greater Scaup were present on the Ohio River at Louisville, March 12 (LR). Two small rafts of Scaup were reported: a flock of 100 Scaup spp. at the mouth of Obion Bayou Du Chien, April 2 (KCa) and 75 Lesser Scaup at Louisville, April 5 (BPB) and a female lingered until May 8 at Oldham County Park (BPB). The 47 Ruddy Ducks at Lake Pewee on April 12 were of interest (JH). Six Red-breasted Mergansers were fairly late stragglers at Hays Kennedy Park, May 14 (BPB) and May 16 (S, FS).

*Raptors* — There were no spring hawk flights. Thirty-one Turkey Vultures were present in Boone County, May 7 on an all-day count (LMc); a flock of 17 on May 30 at Long Run County Park (S, FS). A Mississippi Kite at Bernheim Forest over Lake Nevin on May 29 was noteworthy (WB). Sharp-shinned, Coopers, Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks were reported in normal numbers. Broad-winged Hawks were reported in singles or pairs from April 16 to May 7 in Daviess, Boone, Barren, Kenton, Franklin and Rockcastle counties (m. ob.). Rough-legged Hawks were encountered on March 19 in the Danville area (FL) and as late as the last week of April (no date) in Logan County (JK). An immature Bald Eagle was seen in the Louisville area on March 12 (LR, KCl). A few Marsh Hawks were reported between March 29 and May 7. Ospreys were widespread; 26 sightings from 15 counties ranging from Ballard to Rockcastle, all of single birds, with the exception of 4 at BWMA and 2 at Pulaski Park (m. ob.).

*Cranes through Coots* — The northward movement of Sandhill Cranes was quite good in central Kentucky this spring with two flocks totaling 150 at Munfordville, March 4 (SK) and 100 plus over Jefferson County Forest on March 5 (AB); 17 at Prospect and 20 over Lyndon on March 6 (JK and R. Madison *vide* BPB, respectively); 90 over St. Matthews, March 7 (T. Vail *vide* BPB); 17 at Otter Creek, May 23 (DS) and 31 over St. Matthews, March 25 (JC). A Virginia Rail was brought to the Owensboro Museum for Identification in mid-May (*vide* AP). Single Soras were reported from 10 localities from BWMA to Somerset and Central Kentucky Wildlife Management Area (hereafter CKWMA); 3 were at Mayfair Road settling basins (m. ob.). A Common Gallinule was present May 8 (DN with J. Carusco) and May 11 (DN) in the marshy area in the settling basins at the Louisville Water Company. Three hundred and twenty-two American Coots were present at Lake Pewee on April 7 (JH).

*Shorebirds* — The heavy rains and storms in early May caused much

flooding along the Mississippi River in western Kentucky and covered the normal shorebird habitats, but created excellent habitat in flooded fields along Chamberlain Lane in northwestern Jefferson County and in fields on Schuler Lane in western Oldham County. Two Semipalmated Plovers were first noted in Fulton County on April 19 (JEl) and a similar number appeared in Jefferson and Oldham counties on May 4, but numbers increased during the week, with 24-50 present May 6-8 (DN, BPB); two still present there on May 30 (S). American Golden Plovers were reported from only Fulton County: 40 on April 2 (KCa), 400+ on April 19 (JEl) and 30-40 on April 24 (DN, Dr. J. Noonan). A single Black-bellied Plover was feeding with American Golden Plovers on April 24 in Fulton County (DN); one to two in the Louisville area between May 15-22 (DN, BPB) and one still present on May 28 and 29 (S, FS). Common Snipe were scarce in Danville and Louisville (FL, S); 12 at BWMA on April 1 (KCa). The Upland Sandpiper, a rare transient, was present at three locations: eight at transient lakes, Bowling Green, (BPB) and one at Barren River on April 23 (BPB, KOS); 1-5 in Oldham County, April 29-May 4 (BPB, BM). Solitary Sandpipers were expected and present at Madisonville from April 30 to May 8 (JH), good numbers at Danville (FL), near Murray from May 7-15 (JEr) and at Hays Kennedy Park and Chamberlain and Schuler Lanes from April 29-May 11, with maximum numbers of 25 (S, BM, BPB). A flock of 24 Willets in a flooded field in Oldham County, May 1 was exceptional (BM) and observed later in the day by the Stamms and Palmer-Ball, Jr. The birds left that evening (BPB). A flock of 500 shorebirds, near the Shakertown area, May 4 was unexpected (RM). Various species were in the flock including Spotted, Solitary Sandpipers, Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs and some Pectoral Sandpipers. Greater Yellowlegs were fairly well represented throughout the state, with the earliest arrival at BWMA on April 1 (KCa) and last reported at Louisville, May 12 (S); highest concentration of 50+ in flooded fields in Fulton County, April 19 (JEl). Lesser Yellowlegs were well distributed, with high counts of 300+ at Ballard and Fulton counties, April 19 (JEl) and 100 to 150 at Chamberlain and Schuler Lanes, May 4 and 5 (BPB, DN, S, FS), with only one bird remaining there May 12 (S.) Pectoral Sandpipers were "common" on April 2 at the Kentucky end of Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge (KCa); a peak of 65 reported at Chamberlain and Schuler Lanes, May 8 (BPB). Single White-rumped Sandpipers were present at Schuler Lane on May 4 (BPB), May 5 (S), May 7 in Calloway County (JC) and on Chamberlain Lane, Jefferson County, May 19 (DN with Dr. Noonan). Dunlin were reported from Oldham and Jefferson counties, with 4 and 8 birds, respectively between May 3 and May 19 (DN, S, BPB). A single Dowitcher species was reported on April 23 in Warren County (BPB). Three Short-billed Dowitchers were present from May 1 to May 4 on Schuler Lane (BM, BPB, S); one remained there to May 8 (BPB). Seven Long-billed Dowitchers were heard and seen in Oldham County, April 29 (BPB) and May 1 (S, FS, BPB); two at Danville, with flight calls noted on May 4 (FL). A single Stilt Sandpiper, rare in spring, was recorded in a flooded field along SR 94 in western Kentucky on April 24 (DN). Semipalmated Sandpipers peaked at 20 on May 19, Chamberlain Lane, Jefferson County (DN); 12 present there on May 28 and 29 (S). A Marbled Godwit, maybe more, but only one identified before the group flew away, May 2 in Oldham County (S, FS). An Avocet on April 28 in Daviess County was of special interest (M. Brown *vide* AP). Nine Wilson's Phalaropes were with a large flock of shorebirds in the Shakertown area, May 4 (RM).

*Gulls and Terns* — Approximately 200 Ring-billed Gulls were present at the Falls of the Ohio between March 15-30 (LR, BPB) and tapered off to less than 100 in April. Fair numbers of Bonaparte's Gulls were present in April, with 75-100 at Falls of the Ohio on April 3 (BPB, DN), 40 at Kentucky Dam, April 18 (JEL); and 100 at Barkley and Kentucky Dams, April 23 (DN). A Franklin's Gull at the Falls of the Ohio on April 1 was quite early (DN). The bird in spring plumage was again sighted on April 3 and 4 (DN, JEL, BPB) and April 12 (DN); two adults at Kentucky Dam, May 18 (JEL with Diane Elmore). Terns were reported in small numbers; a single Forster's at Hamlin on April 11 (JEr); 3 at Camp Ernst, Boone County, May 7; one at Louisville, May 8 (DN); 1-6 below Kentucky Dam, May 22-24 (CP, MM). Ten Common Terns were seen at Kentucky Dam, May 22 (CP, MM). A Least Tern at Hamlin on May 3 was the only one reported (JEr). Observers reported very few Caspian Terns: 1 at Hamlin on April 11 and May 3 (JEr); 3 at Kentucky Dam Village, April 23 (DN), 1 there on May 24 (CP) and 4 at Ohio River Bottoms, near Maceo, May 15 (BPB). Black Terns have been scarce in recent years and a single one at Elk Creek, Hopkins County, May 16 was the only one reported (JH).

*Cuckoos through Woodpeckers* — Yellow-billed Cuckoos were scarce this spring. Black-billed Cuckoos were reported from only Meade and Pulaski counties (JEL, JG, BBC). Two Barn Owls at Stanley were of special interest (Thomas Stevenson *vide* AP). Observations on the breeding of Great Horned Owls will be reported in the Breeding Summary. Common Nighthawk migration was observed on May 11 when 100+ passed over Hamlin (JEr); and a "flight" at Fort Wright on May 19 (no number given — EG). Common (Yellow-shafted) Flickers were "below par" at Danville (FL). A single Red-cockaded Woodpecker was reported near Cumberland Falls State Park on April 30 and May 1 (RM *et al.*).

*Flycatchers* — Great-crested Flycatchers were late in arriving and were in low numbers at Danville (FL) and Louisville (S). A Yellow-bellied Flycatcher was in song on May 20 and 21 at Louisville (BPB). Alder Flycatchers were reported only at Louisville, with 1-5 between May 17 and 22 (BPB). Single Willow Flycatchers were present in three Louisville localities (LR, BPB), Petersburg (LMc), and Daviess County (AP). Least Flycatchers were recorded at Louisville, May 6 (S), Hardin County, May 7 (JG) and from the summit of Black Mountain, May 28, 29 and 30 (BPB, m. ob.). Olive-sided Flycatchers were scarce.

*Horned Lark through Nuthatches* — Although Horned Larks were "common" on April 2 at the Kentucky end of Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge (KCa) numbers were low elsewhere. Migration of the Tree Swallow was evident on April 9 at the Frankfort Fish Hatchery, with 150 present, but uncommon there April 24 (KCa). Bank Swallows were reported from four localities, with the highest count 25 at Pulaski County Park, May 16 (JEL). Barn Swallows arrived on March 14 at Hamlin (JEr), but numbers did not arrive until later; 75 encountered at Pulaski County Park, May 16 (JEL). An interesting record was the 100 Cliff Swallows at Green River Lake, May 15 (JEL). Purple Martins were in low numbers. The three Common Ravens at Bad Branch, Letcher County on May 29 made the scheduled field trip by Beckham Bird Club worthwhile (BPB, R. Cassell, K. Justis and D. Chai). The party saw and heard the same number of ravens the following day at the summit of Black Mountain, Harlan County.

These birds may or may not have been the same as sighted the previous day. A Red-breasted Nuthatch on May 20 at Eva Bandman Park, Louisville, was a late straggler (DN, LR).

*Wrens through Shrikes* — Bewick's Wren continued to be scarce: single birds only at Murray (CP) and Danville (FL). A Single Long-billed Marsh Wren was reported at Louisville, May 9 (BPB) and one Sedge Wren at Pulaski County Park, April 30 (JEl). The Gray Catbird at Valley Station on March 17 was early (DS). The Wood Thrush continued to be found in much lower numbers than usual at Lexington, Danville and Louisville (RM, FL, S). Hermit Thrushes were found in fair numbers: 15 at Creason Park, April 21 (JEl); one lingered until May 13 at Fort Wright (EG). Swainson's Thrushes arrived late this spring and were widespread from May 5 through the end of the month, with a good movement in mid-May. Earliest arrival date for the Gray-cheeked Thrush was April 16 at Hamlin (JEr). Veeries were reported from 11 localities (m. ob.), with the earliest in Madison County, April 29 (GR). They were widespread. Eastern Bluebirds are doing well. Ruby-crowned Kinglets were reported from nine localities, but numbers were low. A flock of 150 Water Pipts was reported at Ohio River Bottoms, near Maceo, April 19 (AP). Cedar Waxwings were present in small scattered flocks throughout the period in Boone County and in the Danville area (LMc, FL, respectively), but were scarce in Louisville until mid-May when flocks of 50 and 30 were noted eating holly berries (S, BPB). A few Loggerhead Shrikes were reported and one was found eating a sparrow at a feeding station at Danville in April (FL).

*Vireos through Warblers* — In general vireos were late in arriving. Few comments were received on the White-eyed and Yellow-throated Vireos, but the latter species was definitely down in numbers in the Louisville area. Solitary Vireos were reported from Creason Park (DN), Cumberland Falls area (JEl) and Mt. Vernon (AR). There were more reports of Philadelphia Vireos than is normal during spring, extending from May 5 to May 18. Warbler migration was later than usual and comments were mixed. The heavy rain storms on April 30 brought a good movement to the Danville area on May 2 (FL) and to Louisville on May 3 (MS); numbers were low in Lexington and no "waves" were noted (RM); and "best warbler migration" at Elizabethtown was in mid-May (GE). Good numbers of Black-and-white Warblers passed through Burlington (LMc). Two Brewster's Warblers were encountered: one at Creason Park, April 30 (DN) and one at Cave Hill Cemetery, May 2 (BPB). Thirteen Blue-winged Warblers were counted at Cave Hill Cemetery, April 29 (DN). Tennessee Warblers were not reported before April 29 at Hamlin (JEr) and at Madisonville (JH), but numbers were good at Elizabethtown (GE) and at Danville (FL). Two Orange-crowned Warblers at Cave Hill Cemetery, May 1, were the only ones reported (BPB). A female Northern Parula on April 1 at BWMA was rather early (KCa). A flock of 10 Yellow Warblers was at Pulaski County Park on April 30 (JEl). In general, this species was late, with arrival dates at Hamlin on April 26 (JEr) and at Mt. Vernon on April 27 (AR), but one was on schedule, April 15, in Madison County (*vide* GR). The Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warbler was common on some occasions during the migration at Madisonville (JH) and "hundreds" were present at the Frankfort Fish Hatchery, March 13 and were "everywhere" along the North Fork on Elkhorn Creek, April 17 (KCa). A Black-throated Green Warbler on April 7 was an early date for Hopkins County (JH)...Good



numbers of Blackburnians were reported at Danville (FL), Louisville (BPB) and Burlington (LMc). Chestnut-sided Warblers were seen more frequently at Danville this spring (FL) and a flock at Fort Wright and the Covington border, May 22 (EG). Bay-breasted Warblers were found in good numbers at Burlington, Danville and Louisville. Black Poll Warblers brought more comments than usual: a very early one at Louisville on April 17 (DN); 18 in Hardin County, May 7 (JG); observed frequently from May 5-27 at Burlington (LMc); and good numbers at Louisville (MS, BPB). Pine Warblers were recorded in Hopkins County as early as March 5 (JH). Palm Warblers were unusually common at Danville (FL) and in Hopkins County (JH). A singing Ovenbird on May 30 in a wooded area along Buckeye Lane, Oldham County was of interest (S, FS). Northern Waterthrushes were reported only from western Kentucky: BWMA on April 1 (KCa), Hamlin on April 15 (JEr); and Clear Creek, Hopkins County, May 2-8 (JH). Single Connecticut Warblers were found at four localities: Hamlin, May 7 (JEr); Daviess County, May 7 (*vide* AP); Creason Park, May 17 (BM); and Surrey Hill Farm, Louisville, May 20 (BPB). It was a good year for Mourning Warblers, with records from May 14-22; singles were at Otter Creek Park (DN, JG, S, DS *et al.*), Munfordville (SK), Hamlin (JEr), and Creason Park (DN); at least 7 at Surrey Hill Farm (BPB). Yellow-breasted Chats were down in numbers at Hamlin (JEr), Daviess County (RI) and Louisville (S). The Hooded Warbler showed decreases at Danville and was recorded only once in the Madisonville area (FL, JH, respectively). The American Redstart was absent at Hamlin and at Murray (JEr, CP) and only recorded in Hopkins County from May 6-10 where it "no longer occurs as a breeding bird" (JH).

*Blackbirds through Tanagers* — A single male Bobolink was recorded in Allen County, April 23 (BPB); four males arrived in the Louisville area, April 30 (S, FS); flocks of 75 began appearing in Pulaski County on May 2 (JEl) and May 8 (JC, JEl); flocks of 25 and 50 appeared near Hamlin, May 4 (JEr) and several flocks of 50-75 in the Louisville area, during early May (no date—BPB). Late arrival dates for the Orchard Oriole were: Mt. Vernon, April 28 (AR), Madisonville, May 8 (JH) and at Hamlin on May 16 (JEr). Migration of the Northern (Baltimore) Oriole was noted on May 4 at Hamlin when a flock of 24-30 was feeding with Bobolinks in an alfalfa field (JEr). Five Brewer's Blackbirds were present near the transient lakes in Warren County, April 23 (BPB); 10 in Fulton County, April 24 and a small group near Kentucky Dam, April 26 (DN, with Dr. J. R. Noonan). Ten Scarlet Tanagers were seen at Cave Hill Cemetery, April 29 (DN); both Scarlet and Summer Tanagers were present in good numbers throughout May in Boone County (LMc).

*Finches and Sparrows* — Rose-breasted Grosbeaks arrived later than normal and were first observed at Hamlin on April 26 (JEr) and Madisonville on April 28 (JH). They were scarce at Louisville, but fair numbers at Lexington (RM). Blue Grosbeaks were widespread and reported from nine localities from April 13 at Madisonville (JH) to May 29 at Eubank (JEl). Dickcissel were scarce in Mercer and Scott counties (RM); present at Petersburg on May 7 (LMc); a "few" in Jefferson and Oldham counties (BPB); none at Danville (FL); none were found on an all-day count in Hardin County (JG) and only three on a similar count in Daviess County (*vide* AP). The flock of 15 to 20 Evening Grosbeaks at Murray on April 27 was exceptional (CP). There were no large concentrations of Purple

Finches this year, but noticeable migratory movements were detected at Frankfort on March 12 (KCa) and at Valley Station and Louisville on March 17-19 (DS, S). House Finches continued to spread and were reported from London at the U.S. Forest Service Station (JEl) to Owensboro (RI), with 100+ as the largest concentration at Eubank on March 3 (JEl). American Goldfinches were very common in mid-April at Frankfort (KCa), Falls of the Rough (KCl), and Louisville (S). A flock of 25 Savannah Sparrows was noted on a gravel road in Valley Station, April 1 (DS). The birds were feeding with Dark-eyed Juncos and Song Sparrows. Vesper Sparrows were reported in normal numbers in Fulton County, April 2 (KCa) and in Jefferson County in early April (BPB). A Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Junco at Pulaski County Park on May 23 was a fairly late straggler (JEl). Tree Sparrows were unusually late the third week of May in Warren County (HS). Chipping Sparrows were reported in low numbers at Danville (FL) and at Louisville (S). The Lincoln's Sparrow was only mentioned at Danville and Louisville.

*Correction* — The arrival date for the Blue-winged Teal should have been March 14 instead of May 14 in the Spring Migration of 1982 (*Ky. Warbler*, 58:49, 1982).

*Contributors* — Alan Barrow (AB), W. H. Brown (WB), Fred Busroe (FB), John Callahan (JC), Keith Camburn (KCa), Kathryn Clay (KCl), George Elliott (GE), Jackie Elmore (JEl), Joe T. Erwin (JEr), Helen Fisher (HF), John Getgood (JG), Ed Groneman (EG), James W. Hancock (JH), Ramon Iles (RI), Wilbur Jackson (WJ), Steve Kistler (SK), Frederick Loetscher (FL), Lee McNeely (LMc), Michael Miller (MM), Burt L. Monroe, Jr. (BM), Doxie Noonan (DN), Clell Peterson (CP), A. L. Powell (AP), B. Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB), Ann Ramsey (AR), Lene Rauth (LR), Gary Ritchison (GR), Mable Slack (MS), Herbert E. Shadowen (HS), Bernice Shannon (BS), Lawrence Smith (LS), Anne L. Stamm (S), F. W. Stamm (FS), Donald Summerfield (DS). Other abbreviations — Beckham Bird Club (BBC), Kentucky Ornithological Society (KOS), Ballard Waterfowl Management Area (BWMA), Many observers (m. ob.), Central Kentucky Wildlife Management Area (CKWMA).

—9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40222.

## KENTUCKY'S 1983 EAGLE CENSUS

ANNE L. STAMM AND JAMES S. DURELL

The 1983 Kentucky mid-winter eagle census was a big success. The national target date was January 8, with back-up dates scheduled as close to this date as possible for those who could not participate on the appointed date (January 2-16, was the acceptable period when counts could be used). Observers were actually expecting fewer eagles because of the mild winter, open water and the scarcity of waterfowl, with only moderate numbers in western Kentucky, where the largest concentrations are usually present. Strangely enough, a greater number of eagles was recorded in this census than in any previous winter. There was a total of 142 eagles: 83 adult and 46 immature Bald Eagles, with six of unknown age; three adult and three immature Golden Eagles and one not classified as to age.

The weather was mild during early January, although some areas had a scant covering of snow on the ground, visibility was unusually good at the majority of observation areas.

This survey covered several areas which had not been censused before, including marginal areas, but it excluded Kentucky Bend of the Mississippi River. An adult Bald Eagle at the new Salt River Dam in Spencer County was a pleasant surprise. Also, the report of five Bald Eagles at Fort Knox was of special interest since the area had not been covered previously.

Some interesting facts emerged from the survey: eagles continued to be found along the large impoundments in eastern Kentucky; and the increasing number of Bald Eagles on both Lake Cumberland and Laurel Lake make these locations minor population centers.

It may be well to mention that while only one adult Bald Eagle was observed on the Cave Run survey, two immatures and one adult were seen several times at the Minor Clark Fish Hatchery there prior to the count date.

Below is a table listing the areas covered and eagles sighted. In addition to the locations mentioned in the table, the following areas were checked, but no eagles were found: Carpenter Lake, Bernheim Forest, Rough, Nolin and Barren River Lakes, Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky River, Marion-Casey County Line, Frogue Peninsula at Dale Hollow, Fishing Creek, Tahoo Falls, Grayson Lake, Buckhorn Lake, Carr Fork Lake, Martins Fork, Dewey and Fishtrap Lakes.

#### KENTUCKY EAGLE CENSUS TOTALS 1983

Location	BALD EAGLES				GOLDEN EAGLES			
	Adults	Imm.	Unc.	Total	Adults	Imm.	Unc.	Total
Tennessee line north along the Mississippi River — Fulton, Hickman, Carlisle Counties and Southern Ballard County	10	1		11		1		1
Minor Lake			4	4				
Land Between the Lakes	20	21		41	1			1
Ohio River: Wickliffe to Golconda, includes Ballard Wildlife Management Area	13	11	1	25	2			2
Ohio River:								
Golconda to Owensboro	2	3		5				
Owensboro to Boone County	1	2		3				
Salt River	1			1				
Fort Knox	3	2		5				
Green River Lake	2	1		3				
Dale Hollow	8	4		12				
Cave Run Lake	1			1				
Lake Cumberland and downstream	17	1		18	3			3
Laurel Lake	5		1	6				
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>

Other hawks encountered during the survey totaled 105. The Red-tailed Hawk and American Kestrel were widely distributed. The combined list included: Sharp-shinned, 2; Cooper's Hawk, 2; Red-tailed, 41; Red-shouldered, 3; Rough-legged, 2; Marsh Hawk, 1; American Kestrel, 53; and one unidentified hawk.

The census was made possible through the efforts of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Corps of Engineers, Tennessee

Valley Authority, National and State Parks, Kentucky Ornithological Society, and a few interested individuals. The project was coordinated by James S. Durrell of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife. A total of 102 persons participated.

The writers wish to acknowledge the assistance of several new participants and to thank all the observers and recorders for making this one of the best Kentucky eagle counts. It is regretted that due to lack of space the names of participants can not be listed.

— 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40222 and Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, Frankfort 40601.

## FIELD NOTES

### HOUSE FINCH NESTS IN WARREN COUNTY

Beginning in early March 1983, I noticed a pair of House Finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) around my house in Bowling Green. On 22 April I saw the female enter a large hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) beside my house. There, in the hemlock, approximately seven feet above the ground I found a nest containing five eggs. The eggs were light blue and sparsely marked with short brown and black lines and spots. I checked the nest daily during times when the female was off the nest and found the eggs in place each time. However, on 29 April the House Finches were not observed and the eggs were missing. The birds were not seen thereafter.

To my knowledge, this is the first House Finch nest to be reported in Warren County.

— Allen R. Strickley, Jr., 1715 Karen Circle, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101.

## BOOK REVIEW

*BIRD SPECIES ON MINED LAND*, by Pierre N. Allaire. Institute for Mining and Minerals Research, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky 40512, 1980; pp. vii + 64.

This thorough study fills a need for information on the effect of mining on bird life in eastern Kentucky. The publication is the culmination of hundreds of hours of observation from 1974 to 1981. Readers will profit from the concise literature review, the information provided on the various mining techniques, and the extensive population studies. The review of the literature focuses upon three types of mining found in eastern Kentucky — area-wide mining, contour mining, and mountain top removal. Valuable information is provided on the avifauna of some of the counties in eastern Kentucky which are not well known ornithologically. The publication is beautifully illustrated with paintings by Alan Barron.

Some interesting ecology is discussed. The author makes the point that mining has resulted in cleared areas, particularly on the mountain tops, and this has produced an edge effect and resulted in greater species diversity. On page five he states: "The creation of this vertical rock wall

provided a limiting factor (nest site)." Perhaps it would be more appropriate to state that it reduced a limiting factor, the lack of nesting sites.

When one views the photographs of properly reclaimed mine areas in this publication and reads the lists of bird species present at different seasons of the year one might be lulled into thinking that all strip mining produces environmental bonuses. However, on thousands of acres in both eastern and western Kentucky this obviously is not the case. Dr. Allaire does produce evidence that mining — when followed by proper reclamation — can produce benefits in addition to coal. His management recommendations in Chapter five appear logical and relatively inexpensive to include in reclamation. The citizens of Kentucky will indeed be fortunate if mine operators read *Bird Species on Mined Lands* and put into practice the suggested recommendations.

— H. E. Shadowen, Dept. of Biology, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, 42101.

## NEWS AND VIEWS

### INFORMATION WANTED

**ON TAGGED TURKEY VULTURES.** Shela Gaby of Miami, Florida, has been banding Turkey Vultures with wing tags. One of her birds wearing two wing tags marked M 43 was recorded recently in Montgomery County, Kentucky, by conservation officer Terry Conn. She would like information on any sightings or nesting of these wing-tagged vultures. Report any findings to Shela Gaby at 6832 SW 68th Street, Miami, Florida 33143.

**ON HERON, EGRET AND TERN NESTING COLONIES.** Sherri Evans is currently gathering data on heron, egret, and tern nesting colonies in Kentucky. If you have field observations of any active colonies, please send them to Sherri Evans, Nongame Program, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, #1 Game Farm Rd., Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. Helpful information would include the date of observation, location with respect to count and nearest town, number of nests and number of individuals.

### FALL K.O.S. MEETING

Our fall meeting will be held at Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park 23-25 September 1983. Reservations at the lodge should be made at your earliest convenience (Phone: 502-362-4271). Camping sites are also available. You are encouraged to take this opportunity to renew acquaintances, share birding experiences and observe the fall migration at this excellent locality. Those interested in making a presentation at the Friday evening program should contact Blaine Ferrell, Department of Biology, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green 42101 (Phone: 502-745-3696).