

2-1985

Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 61, no. 1)

Kentucky Library Research Collections
Western Kentucky University, spcol@wku.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ky_warbler



Part of the [Ornithology Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Kentucky Library Research Collections, "Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 61, no. 1)" (1985). *Kentucky Warbler*. Paper 193.
http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ky_warbler/193

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in Kentucky Warbler by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact topscholar@wku.edu.

The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

VOL. 61

FEBRUARY, 1985

NO. 1



IN THIS ISSUE

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT, 1984-1985, Blaine Ferrell	3
THE FALL MIGRATION SEASON, 1984, Anne L. Stamm	13
FIELD NOTE	19
NEWS AND VIEWS ..	20

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded in 1923 by B. C. Bacon, L. Otley Pindar, and Gordon Wilson

President	Blaine Ferrell, Bowling Green
Vice-President	Fred Busroe, Morehead
Corr. Sec.-Treasurer	Miss Harriet Korfhage 2001 Glenview, Louisville, Ky. 40222
Recording Secretary	Lee McNeely, Burlington
Councillors:	
Wayne Mason, Bowling Green	1983-1985
Jim Durrell, Lexington	1983-1985
Mary Lydia Greenwell, Owensboro	1984-1986
Dr. Wendell Kingsolver, Carlisle	1984-1986
Retiring President	Pierre Allaire, Jackson
Librarian	Evelyn Schneider, Louisville
Staff Artist	Ray Harm

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, \$5.00; Contributing, \$6.00; Student, \$3.00; Life, \$75.00; 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.

Editor	B. R. Ferrell, Biology Department, Western Kentucky Univ., Bowling Green 42101
Assistant Editor	Herbert E. Shadowen, Bowling Green

Editorial Advisory Board

Anne L. (Mrs. F. W.) Stamm	Burt L. Monroe, Jr.
----------------------------	---------------------

OUR COVER

Our thanks go to Wayne M. Mason for the excellent cover photograph of a Tundra Swan observed at Three Springs Lake, Bowling Green.

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT 1984-1985

Reports of 22 counts from across the state were received and their data tabulated. The relatively mild weather conditions experienced prior to and during the count period may have accounted for the low numbers of certain waterfowl, winter roost and northern finch species, as well as, the unusual occurrences of summer residents. Species represented by a single bird observed only on one count are not included in the table. These include a Tree Swallow, Northern Oriole, Marsh Wren (Ballard County), Blue-winged Teal (Land Between the Lakes), Mountain Bluebird (Otter Creek Park), Double-crested Cormorant (Louisville), a female Merlin, an immature Black-crowned Night Heron (Frankfort) and a Great Egret (Lexington). A total of 112 species was recorded. The addition of a Double-crested Cormorant (Louisville), 35 Water Pipits (Danville) and 20 Evening Grosbeaks (Rowan County) observed during the count period brought the total to 115 species. Ten species were recorded on all counts and 12 species were recorded only on one count. The occurrence of a Mountain Bluebird was an exciting, well documented addition as was the female Merlin.

Although data from winter counts are crude at best, several trends were apparent. The Eastern Bluebird continues to increase in numbers from 972 reported last year to 1,505 this year. Red-headed Woodpeckers were well represented throughout the state, but especially in the western portion with record numbers being recorded in Ballard County. An effort to establish a colony of Wild Turkeys at Mammoth Cave National Park appears to have been successful. It will be interesting to follow the condition of this population in the future. The increase in numbers of American Crows, American Robins and Winter Wrens and the decrease in numbers of winter roost species may have resulted from milder weather conditions.

Thanks are sincerely extended to all participants, particularly those who submitted verification forms on unusual sightings. Thanks are also extended for the comments regarding unusual weather conditions, habitat and interesting sightings.

BALLARD COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center and habitat as described in 1984). Dec. 29; 6:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky mostly cloudy; temp. 59 to 69° F; wind S-SW, 5-40 m.p.h. Fourteen observers in five parties. Total party-hours 29.25 (16.5 on foot, 12.75 by car). Total party miles 146 (16 on foot, 130 by car). Total species 75; total individuals 40,037.

The windy conditions hindered birding efforts. Nevertheless, highlights of the count included four species of late-lingering summer residents, all well described: a male Northern Oriole, a Tree Swallow, a Marsh Wren and a pair of Dickcissels. In addition, a possible national high of 357 Red-headed Woodpeckers was recorded. The Snow Geese were approximately 70% "Blue" Geese and 30% "Snow" Geese. — Mary Bill Bauer, John Callahan, Kathryn Clay, Doris Garst, Terry Koontz, Robert Morris, Barry Nichols, Eudoxia Noonan, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler), Glenn Raleigh, Lene Rauth, Stephen Washburn, Sally Wasielewski, Jim Williams.

LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES (all points within a 15-mile diameter

circle, center Pisgah Bay Picnic Ground as described in 1984). Habitat: lake and stream shores 35%, deciduous and pine woods 30%, overgrown and cultivated fields 20%, residential and small business 15%. Dec. 14, 5:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky mostly clear; temp. 54 to 70° F; wind SW, 0-3 m.p.h. Twenty-eight observers in seven parties. Total party-hours 54 (21.5 on foot, 32.5 by car). Total party-miles 408 (21.5 on foot, 386.5 by car). Total species 85; total individuals 5,309.

Waterfowl in the LBL area, as in most places I suspect, were down in both species and individual numbers; only the Ring-necked Duck seemed to be present in average numbers. Gulls also were down in total numbers. The Bonaparte's Gulls and the tern (sp.), the three Dunlin and peep (sp.) were observed by Joe Tom Erwin and Mike Miller at Jonathan Creek at the edge of the count area. On December 16, Ed Ray observed five Turkey Vultures, apparently migrating, and one Black Vulture soaring at a point on the perimeter of the count area at about one o'clock. — George Beringer, Bonnie Braun, Wally Brines, Happy Chambers, Mark Crass, Jack and Lorine Dodd, Melissa Easley, Roger Eberhardt, Joe Erwin, Donn Manning, Mike Miller, Carl Jr. and Carl III Mowery, Joyce North, Mindy North, Clell Peterson (compiler), Lawrence and LouAnn Philpot, Ed Ray, Peggy Reynolds, Martin and Seah Shamlian, Bill Sledd, Robert Smith, Mike Todd, Shawnia Weasel, Steve White.

MARION (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Forest Grove). Habitat: open fields, woodlands, ponds and creeks. Jan. 1; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 42 to 38° F; wind NW, 5-15 m.p.h. Two observers in two parties. Total party-hours 14 (12 by foot, 2 by car). Total party-miles 16 (4 on foot, 12 by car). Total species 31; total individuals 809.

Birds have been extremely scarce in this area all fall and thus far this winter. — C. L. Frazer (compiler) and Marie Frazer.

SORGHO (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Ky. 279 and Audubon Parkway and the Wilson Farm). Habitat: same as described in 1982. Dec. 29; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 62 to 70° F; wind W, 12 m.p.h. Eleven observers in four parties. Total party-hours 77 (44 on foot, 33 by car). Total party-miles 84 (8 on foot, 76 by car). Total species 44; total individuals 3,832. — Tony Eaden, Joe Ford, Tommy Hicks, John Humphrey, Ramon Iles, A. L. (Bert) Powell, Millie Powell, Thomas Stevenson, Ann Wilson, Ed Wilson (compiler), Elinor Wilson.

YELVINGTON (center and habitat as described in 1982). Dec. 22; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky overcast with intermittent sun; temp. 44 to 50° F; wind 5-10 m.p.h. Twelve observers in four parties. Total party-hours 30 (20 on foot, 10 by car). Total party-miles 46 (12 on foot, 34 by car). Total species 50; total individuals 1,530.

The finding of the Great Blue Heron is noteworthy. We are pleased with the number of Bluebirds (58) that was found. By contrast, only one Common Grackle was located (This is unusual). The lack of waterfowl, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Hermit Thrushes and other previously common species was disturbing.

The importance of backyard feeders must be emphasized, as the only Winter Wren was found at the Ray's yard. A sizable list was turned in

by Maudie Ray from her feeder and yard. There was also much activity at the Powell feeder and yard. — Joey Brown, Mary Brown, Mike Brown, Tom Hicks, John Humphrey, Ray Iles, A. L. Powell (compiler), Millie Powell, Rose Ann Radzelovage, Maudie Ray, Tommy Stevenson, and Anne Wilson.

HANCOCK COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Patesville). Habitat: field and woodland areas, creek bottom. Dec. 27; 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sky overcast; temp. 53 to 62° F; wind NW, 1-5 m.p.h. Two observers in one party. Total party-hours 7 (6 on foot, 1 by car). Total party-miles 16 (6 on foot, 10 by car). Total species 16; total individuals 68.

The absence of House Sparrows, Starlings and Grackles was unusual. — Rose Ann Radzelovage (compiler), Walter Radzelovage.

MADISONVILLE (Center and habitat as described in 1983). Dec. 31; 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky overcast; temp. 54 to 65° F; wind E, 5-15 m.p.h. Two observers in one party. Total party-hours 10 (8 on foot, 2 by car). Total party-miles 44 (6 on foot, 38 by car). Total species 44; total individuals 1,746.

Some waterfowl were down in numbers this season, such as American Widgeons and Canvasbacks. However, some Ruddy Ducks may have been present on Lake Pewee (450 acres) since 26 were seen there on December 29. — James W. Hancock (compiler), Allen Morgan.

HOPKINSVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at the intersection of SR 68 and Pennyriple Pkwy. (36°52'N, 87°28'W).) Habitat: farmland 43%, deciduous woodland 27%, pond and lakesides 20%, river and streamsides 6%, residential 4%. Dec. 22; 6:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky mostly clear; temp. 30° to 51° F; wind NW, 0-7 m.p.h. The entire month of December was very mild with some days in the low 70's. Ten observers in four parties. Total party-hours 34.5 (16 on foot, 18.5 by car). Total party-miles 256 (13 on foot, 243 by car). Total species 55; total individuals 3,232. — George Beringer (compiler), David and Jenny Chiles, Freddie and Kathy Higgins, Tom and Helen Marshall, Mary Lou McReynolds, Roger and Maggie Selvide. (Little River Audubon Society).

BOWLING GREEN (center and habitat as described in 1980). Dec. 15; 6:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 59 to 66° F; wind W, 0-4 m.p.h. It was unusually warm. Seven observers in three parties. Total party-hours 22 (16 on foot, 6 by car). Total party-miles 148 (12 on foot, 136 by car). Total species 61; total individuals 5,940.

Perhaps due to the mild fall weather, some of the hardy winter species were low in number or absent. Food was abundant for Robins and seed-eaters. — Blaine R. Ferrell, Jeff Jones, Wayne Mason, Bill and Ruth Mathes, H. E. Shadowen (compiler), Allen Stickley, Jr.

MAMMOTH CAVE NATIONAL PARK (center and habitat as described in 1980). Dec. 16; 6:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 59 to 67° F; wind W, 0-7 m.p.h. Five observers in three parties. Total party-hours 24 (20 on foot, 4 by car). Total party miles 111.5 (16.5 on foot, 95 by car). Total species 48; total individuals 1,319.

PALM WARBLER	146	75	56	93	111	10	34	114	106	40	164	125	219	662	40	230	44	644	275	66	43	16
NORTHERN CARDINAL	2																		4	3		
DICKCISSEL	16	18	2	13	15	1	4	18	45	6	11	40	20	47	6	37	1	18	10	5	4	
RUFOUS-S. TOWHEE	10	6			1							16	3	7		1			1	8		
AM. TREE SPARROW	56	18	2	9	2	1	9	28	44	23	21	87	30	47	23	6	46	49	2	25	1	
FIELD SPARROW	5								4			6									1	
SAVANNAH SPARROW												6										
GRASSHOPPER SPARROW	3	2	1	2	2	2	2	11			3	7		2	1	6	6	3	1		2	
FOX SPARROW	107	44	3	61	36	9	34	107	7	95	181	90	452	22	178	27	199	141	28	28	4	
SONG SPARROW	67	53			5	3	2	14		12	24	3	20		1	1	10	4	2	3		
SWAMP SPARROW	423	79	46	27	130	1	14	97	288	56	226	131	246	511	3	228	40	217	129	29	62	30
WHITE-THR. SPARROW	47		60	13	30	7	36	15		4	96	27	38	8	29		44	51	1	2		
WHITE-CR. SPARROW	468	261	155	16	60	35	16	183	85	182	97	437	514	367	44	487	199	289	66	83	98	25
DARK-EYED JUNCO	571	63		14			250	31	114	16	211	34	10	331	5	2	171	14	9		1	
RED-W. BLACKBIRD	56	24		36	27		8	177	67		14	42	44	54	10	18	17	74	247	6	2	
E. MEADOWLARK	12	68					4		3					5333	26	23		26	208			
RUSTY BLACKBIRD	268	39	10	1	25	152	2410	4		1578	102	59590	33	35	2	158	421	3				
COMMON GRACKLE	47		500			6	12	2	61		7	5191	1	1	2895	56	6					
BR.-HEADED COWBIRD	1		8	1	1	1	49	19	3	16	9			46	53	37	8	13		2		
PURPLE FINCH									38		2	1	66	1	20		82	97		50		
HOUSE FINCH	1	2										25					6					
PINE SISKIN	34	86	97	27	5	35	44	72	28	84	100	248	69	291	27	301	75	90	30	2		
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	705	93	300	1287	200	81	333	155		80	380	377	483	105	329	4	9730	528	144	100	15	
HOUSE SPARROW																						

DAY OF COUNT	D29	D14	J1	D29	D22	D27	D31	D22	D15	D16	J1	D22	J1	D16	D29	D22	D29	D15	D15	D29	D26	J1
NUMBER OF SPECIES	75	85	31	44	50	16	44	55	61	48	53	62	63	82	46	63	43	89	66	42	58	33
INDIVIDUALS	40037	5309	809	3832	1530	68	1746	3232	5940	1319	2882	6113	13276	124562	1287	7660	2437	37321	8618	3723	1215	297
OBSERVERS	14	28	2	11	12	2	2	10	7	5	5	13	12	29	2	18	5	45	29	15	4	4

* Indicates the species was recorded but not on the count day.

Marquita and Joey flushed the Turkeys on the south bank of the Green River. They flew across the river past the western tip of Sand Island to the north bank of the river. — Blaine R. Ferrell (compiler), Marquita Gillenwater, Wayne Mason, Joey McCombs, H. E. Shadowen.

GLASGOW (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center the Barren County Courthouse). Habitat as described previously. Jan. 1; 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky heavy overcast; temp. 69 to 39° F; wind S, 5-15 m.p.h., gusting to 30 m.p.h. in the a.m. and N, 10-15 m.p.h., gusting to 20 m.p.h. in the p.m. There was a steady driving rain in the morning. Five observers in four parties. Total party-hours 34 (26 on foot, 8 by car). Total party-miles 142 (14 on foot, 128 by car). Total species 53; total individuals 2,882.

A cold, driving rain and decreasing temperatures throughout the morning hampered birding efforts. Gulls continue to be well represented at Barren River Reservoir, but ducks were noticeably absent on the count day. — Marquita Gillenwater, Mr. and Mrs. Howard M. Jones, Wayne M. Mason (compiler), Dr. Russell R. Starr.

OTTER CREEK PARK (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center two miles southwest of the park entrance, to include fields and small lakes outside the park.) Habitat: brushy fields 38%, fields and pastures 28%, deciduous woods 18%, creeks, lakes and river 12%, towns 4%. Dec. 22; 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky mostly clear to clear; temp. 38 to 41° F; wind W, 13 m.p.h. Creeks, lakes and the river were high and the ground was soggy. Thirteen observers in six parties. Total party-hours 51 (24 on foot, 27 by car). Total party-miles 295 (22 on foot, 273 by car). Total species 62; total individuals 6,113.

Most notable this count was the sighting of a Mountain Bluebird by B. Palmer-Ball, Jr., Richard Cassell and Diane Ebel; two other parties were alerted and subsequently observed them. This is a state record. The same party found the Grasshopper Sparrows. Carolina Chickadees, Tufted Titmice, Golden-crowned Kinglets and Cedar Waxwings were in lower numbers than last year, whereas, Eastern Bluebirds, Field and White-throated Sparrows were up considerably. — Richard Cassell, Diane Ebel, John Getgood, Frank and John Krull, Barry Nichols, Doxie Noonan, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Martha Pike, Helga Schutte, F. W. and Anne Stamm (compiler), Donald Summerfield.

BERNHEIM FOREST (center and habitat as described in 1974). Jan. 1; 5:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 45 to 63° F; wind S-NW, 9-44 m.p.h. There were intermittent periods of rain in the a.m. Twelve observers in five parties. Total party-hours 52 (24.5 on foot, 27.5 by car). Total party-miles 309 (15.5 on foot, 293.5 by car). Total species 63; total individuals 13,276.

High winds made birding very difficult. The male House Finch was a count record. The immature Bald Eagle was observed at a small lake southwest of the forest. — Brad Andres, Mary Bill Bauer, Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Wayne Dahl, Sarah McClellan, Barry Nichols, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler), Jim Pasikowski, Helga Schutte, L. D. Smith, Stephen Washburn.

LOUISVILLE (center and habitat as described in 1972). Dec. 16; 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky mostly cloudy; temp. 54 to 72° F; wind SW,

3-15 m.p.h. Twenty-nine observers in 10 parties. Total party-hours 92 (48 on foot, 44 by car). Total party-miles 48 (51 on foot, 437 by car). Total species 82; total individuals 124,562.

Generally a very poor year and poor day. Windy conditions made birding difficult. The Ohio River was high and thus species of waterfowl and gulls were down. Generally mild weather in December was probably responsible for low numbers of northern finches.

The only item of real interest is that House Finches continue to increase in the region. No verified rarities were reported. — Garrett Adams, Mary Bauer, John Callahan, Kathryn Clay, Jackie Elmore, Doris Garst, F. H., F. X., John and Mary Krull, Burt Monroe, Jr. (compiler), Mark Monroe, Kay Mudd, Dot Muntan, E. T. and J. R. Noonan, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Jim Pasikowski, Martha Pike, Robert Quaife, Lene Rauth, Ginny Rommel, Carl Schultz, Helga Schutte, L. D. Smith, Anne and F. W. Stamm, Midge Susie, Scottie Theiss (Beckham Bird Club).

SHELBYVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center three-quarters of a mile south of U.S. 60 and Guist Creek Lake on Ky. 714). Habitat: elevation 640' to 1190', farmland, fallow land, suburban, woodland and grassland. Dec. 29; 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 57 to 65° F; wind S, 9-22 m.p.h. Two observers in one party. Total party-hours 10.5 (2.5 on foot, 7.5 by car). Total party-miles 151 (1 on foot, 150 by car). Total species 46; total individuals 1,827.

The absence of vultures was unusual. — John Brown and W. H. Brown (compiler).

FRANKFORT (center and habitat as described in 1972). Dec. 22; 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky partly cloudy; temp. 38 to 55° F; wind W, 4-14 m.p.h. Water open, streams almost flooding. Eighteen observers in 12 parties. Total party-hours 72 (40 on foot, 32 by car). Total party-miles 418 (40 on foot, 378 by car). Total species 63; total individuals 7,660.

The steady wind kept down the numbers of species, especially woodpeckers. This count tends to document the apparent continuing decline of American Kestrels and vultures. Eastern Bluebirds, Northern Mockingbirds and Carolina Wrens seem to have stabilized in numbers near former levels. We had a higher than usual count for Golden-crowned Kinglets. Our unusual finds, the immature Black-crowned Night Heron by Jim Rettig and the female Merlin by W. H. Brown, were observed at length at close range. — W. H. Brown, Peggy Durbin, James Durell, Marc and Sherri Evans, Scott Hankla, Virginia Honaker, Howard Jones (compiler), Jeff Jones, Margaret LaFontaine, Lynne Mekus, Robert Morris, Marla Nunnally, Glenn Raleigh, Jim Rettig, Teresa Rollins, Jim Williams, Tim Williams.

KLEBER WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA (center and habitat as described in 1972). Dec. 29; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky mostly cloudy; temp. 62 to 68° F; wind SW, 12-18 m.p.h. All water was open. Five observers in two parties. Total party-hours 14 (9 on foot, 5 by car). Total party-miles 135 (8 on foot, 127 by car). Total species 43; total individuals 2,437.

A good winter food crop accounted for the presence of American Robins, Cedar Waxwings and Purple Finches, but the wind kept the numbers of woodpeckers and sparrows down. The best find was the Horned Grebe on Elmer Davis Lake despite boatloads of fishermen moving about.

Yellow-rumped Warblers were in good numbers and apparently Carolina Wrens have made a comeback in Owen County. Brad Andres spent one-half hour owling and called up the two E. Screech Owls. — Brad Andres, Peggy Durbin, James Durell, Howard Jones (compiler), Sarah McClellan.

LEXINGTON (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center east Hickman on Tates Creek Pike). Habitat: as described in 1972. Dec. 15; 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 55 to 72° F; wind S, 3-5 m.p.h. Forty-five observers in eight parties. Total party-hours 64.5 (22 on foot, 42.5 by car). Total party-miles 370 (23 on foot, 347 by car). Total species 89; total individuals 37,321.

Best day we have ever had! Best weather we've ever had! There seemed to be plenty of food for the birds. — Brad Andres, Bill Barbour, Roger W. Barbour, Earl Boggs, Gary Boggs, Mike Boggs, Pat Boggs, Ann Bradley, Bonnie Bradley, Gene Bradley, Karen Cannon, Rose Cannon, Carol Chambers, Susan Chron, Manton Cornett, Ron Duncan, Lyda Feck, Jean Flynn, Mike Flynn, John Glickson, Overton Green, Virginia Hougham, Ruth Housie, Edna Huddle, Ray Huddle, Betty Maxon, Sarah McClellan, Robert Morris (compiler), Tom Rae, Glen Raleigh, Algie Reece, Jerry Reece, Phil Roca, Marie Sutton, Flow Tandy, Tony Tandy, Andy Utterhart, Marian Utterhart, Sally Wasielewski, Clara Weiland, Glen Wells, Jim Williams, Mike Williams, Tim Williams, Bernice Wood.

DANVILLE (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Boyle County Courthouse). Habitat: Residential 10%, Lakeside 10%, Woodland 19%, Farmland 45%, Streamside 15%, Parks 1%. Dec. 15; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 60 to 72° F; wind calm. Record high temperature. Twenty-nine observers in nine parties. Total party-hours 61 (25 on foot, 36 by car). Total party-miles 437 (25 on foot, 412 by car). Total species 66; total individuals 8,618. — Chauncey Alcock, Joe Amburgey, Ernie Baird, Harry and Molly Caldwell, Ken Dickey, Neil (compiler) and Scott Eklund, Mrs. Tom and Tobin Foster, John Gower, JoAnn and Mike Hamm, Morton Hoagland, Jack Kellam, J. W. Kemper, Dan MacDonald, Mike Marsh, Eric Mount, Jack Newton, John B. Nichols, Mary and Rob Pedygraft, Les Reid, Louise Robinson, Joe Russell, Joan V. G. Smith, Charles Vahlkamp, Gordon Winsor.

BURLINGTON (center and habitat as described in 1975). Dec. 29; 5:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky overcast, cloudy; temp. 59 to 66° F; wind SE, 10-25 m.p.h. Fifteen observers in four parties. Total party-hours 29 (14 on foot, 15 by car). Total party-miles 165 (8 on foot, 157 by car). Total species 42; total individuals 3,723.

Gusty winds made finding birds difficult. Waterfowl were in particularly low numbers, while the large number of American Robins was most unusual for this area. — Mike Andrews, Joanne Conradi, Stan Hirtle, Bill Jacoby, Carolyn Johnson, John Johnson, Ed Kennedy, Gerri Kennedy, Lee McNeely (compiler), Lynda McNeely, Brenda Ross, George Schoen, Carmen Schulte, Tommy Stephens, Carolyn VanHuss.

ROWAN COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Morehead). Habitat: mixed hardwood, lake shores, meadows, fields, Minor Clark Fish Hatchery and Cave Run Lake. Dec. 26; 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Sky mostly clear; temp. 20 to 42° F; wind E, 0-3 m.p.h. Four observers in three parties. Total party-hours 10 (2 on foot, 8 by car). Total party-

miles 66 (2 on foot, 64 by car). Total species 58; total individuals 1,215.

Unusual early winter season — there were very few waterfowl on the lake, and a lower than usual number of winter residents and visitors. — Fred Busroe (compiler), Joanna Busroe, Margaret Heaslip, Al Surmont.

PERRY COUNTY (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Ronnyman. Habitat: woodland and woodland edge. Jan. 1; 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. Sky cloudy with rain; temp. 50 to 60° F; wind gusting to 20 m.p.h. Four observers in one party. Total party-hours 12 (10 on foot, 2 by car). Total party-miles 30 (3 on foot, 27 by car). Total species 33; total individuals 297.

Gusty, rainy weather made for a poor day and seemed to keep woodpeckers and birds of prey inactive. — Dennis Sandlin, Wayne Sladek, Benjamin and Donnie R. Spencer (compiler).

THE FALL MIGRATION SEASON, 1984

ANNE L. STAMM

The fall season was very mild with the average temperature in October 6.2 degrees above normal. In Louisville on October 26 it was 17 degrees above normal for that date, according to the Weather Bureau. No frosts were apparent in central Kentucky until November 7. Rainfall during August and November was much above normal.

The warm weather seemed to retard southward migration. A number of species lingered well beyond normal departure dates and winter residents were late in arriving. There were no signs of an influx of northern species.

Loons through Cormorants — Common Loons were reported from October 24 to November 25 at Louisville, Taylorsville Lake, Lexington, Fishing Creek Recreational Area (hereafter FCRA) and Cave Run Lake with a high of 35 at the latter location (FB). Pied-billed Grebes were fairly widespread and peaked at Lake Pewee with 114 on October 29 (JH) and 49 at Lexington, September 26 (BA). Horned Grebes were scarce and reported in low numbers from October 24–November 30; 20 was the high at Louisville, November 5 (BPB) and “numerous” at Dale Hollow, November 25 (RS). Double-crested Cormorants were reported from Honker Lake, Jonathan Creek, Louisville, Lexington and Green River, with the earliest at Louisville on August 3 (LR) and the highest number there — 17 — on October 25 (BPB).

Hérons — Great Blue Herons were widespread and more numerous than usual: high counts included 63 in the shallows of Lake Barkley on November 16 (CP), and 50+ at Lake #9, Fulton County, August 27 (BPF, BN, S. Washburn). Smaller numbers were: 14–18 in the Lexington area, November 17–25 (MF), 15 at East Bend, October 28 (LMc), 13 at Mayfair Basins, November 16 (DN) and singles as late as November 30 and December 1 at Lentz's Pond and Prospect (S, JK, respectively). The Great Egret was reported all across the state from Fulton County to Bell County (m.ob.), with greatest concentrations of 500 at Lake #9 on August 27 and 350 on September 1 (BPF, BN, *et al.*); singles lingered at Burnside State Park until November 7 (JEl) and at Lexington, November 17 (MF). A Snowy Egret was present on the Falls of the Ohio (hereafter Falls) on

August 5 (JEL, JC) and apparently remained through September 11 (m. ob.); one at Ballard Waterfowl Management Area (hereafter BWMA), eight at Lake #9, August 27 and three at the latter location on September 1 (BN, BPB, *et al.*). An immature Little Blue Heron arrived at the Falls on August 15 (BN) and remained until August 26; 53 at BWMA, 125 at Lake #9 on August 27 (BN, BPB, S. Washburn) and 125 at the latter location, September 1 (BPB, R. Cassell); one at Clark Hatchery, September 18-21 (FB). At least four nests of Cattle Egret were discovered on August 18 at Shippingport Island (SE, BPB); about 30 there each evening from September 5 until late September and 15-20 still present on October 11 (BPB); 50 flying over Lake #9, August 27 and 200 on September 1 (BPB, BN, *et al.*); singles noted at Clark Hatchery, October 3-7 (FB) at FCRA on October 21 (JEL) and below Kentucky Dam on November 29, a late date (CP). There was an increase in the number of Green-backed Herons with a high count of 30 at the Falls, August 5 (JEL, JC) and 26 at Clark Hatchery, September 4 (FB). A total of 196 Black-crowned Night Herons was the high for the period at McAlpine Dam, August 16 (LR); three lingered until October 27 at the Mouth of Bear Grass Creek (S, FS) and one there October 28 (JL). A single Yellow-crowned Night Heron at the Falls on August 8 was the only one reported (BN).

Waterfowl — Although 40 Snow Geese had reached BWMA by October 10 some 700 were there at the end of the month and the flock peaked at 4000 in late November (TY). The first migrating flock of 100 Canada Geese arrived at BWMA on September 15, and the flock increased to 2500 by October 10, some 7000 by the end of October and peaked at 12000 November 30 (TY). The duck migration was late and generally light. The mild fall offered little inducement for southern flight and when they came they passed through rather quickly, except in western Kentucky, where most of the winter ducks congregate. Only 30 migrating ducks had reached BWMA by October 10, 2500 on October 30 and 6500 by November 30 (TY). The duck populations at BWMA and the lower river bottoms were significantly smaller than in recent years, according to Tom Young, manager of BWMA. The duck migration was evident at Waitsboro and near Burnside State Park on November 2 when 1000+ were seen. The rafts included Lesser Scaup, Bufflehead, some American Widgeon, Ring-necked and Ruddy Ducks; all ducks were gone the following day (JEL). Highest numbers of Puddle ducks reported included 150 Black Ducks at Cave Hill Cemetery, November 30 (S, FS) and 103 at Lexington, November 22 (BA); 65 Green-winged Teal at Lexington Reservoir, November 9 (BA); 55 Blue-winged Teal at the Falls, September 22 (BN), 90 at Mayfair Basins, October 4 (BPB); a raft of 150 Gadwall and American Widgeon, September 24 at Six Mile Island (DN) and 100 Wood Ducks at Mayfair Basins, November 2 (BN). Gadwall were more numerous at Bowling Green than usual (WM). Ring-necked Ducks peaked at Lake Pewee on November 23 with 260 and 200 at Hematite Lake, November 26 and 29 (CP). Canvasbacks were scarce with only a high of 25 at Hematite Lake (CP); a drake in molt at the Falls from September 3 until October 21 was most unusual (BPB). A male Greater Scaup was seen at Lexington on October 29 and November 23 (BA). Some migratory movement of Lesser Scaups noted at Lexington, October 24 with 345 birds (BA), 300+ at Louisville, October 29 (JL) and 200+ at Jonathan Creek, October 30 (CP). An interesting flock of three species of scoters was present on the Ohio River at Cox's Park, October

24 (LR): four Black Scoters, nine Surf and one White-winged (BPB, LR). There were also two to three other Black Scoters present on the River (DN, BPB) and three Surf the following day (BPB, DN). A noteworthy record included two White-winged Scoters at Waitsboro Recreational Area, November 2 (JEL); four were also at Towhead Island, November 5 (JC). Although most ducks arrived later than usual; a single Common Goldeneye was early at Louisville, November 2 (DN). Flocks of 20 Hooded Mergansers at Lake Pewee and 25 at Lexington were seen in late November (JH, BA, respectively). Ruddy Ducks were fairly widespread with a high count of 75 at Lake Pewee' November 23 (JH).

Hawks — Except for a fairly good Broad-winged Hawk and Turkey Vulture movement, this fall's southward migration was not exciting. Black Vultures were recorded in above normal numbers at Clark Hatchery where 98 were seen on October 12 and averaged 27 birds on 10 visits. Eighty Turkey Vultures were observed over a farm in east Louisville, October 18 (BPB) and about 100 or more in the vicinity of Lentz's Pond, November 3 (BBC), at least 50 there the following day (S) and a maximum of 285 at Clark Hatchery, November 8 (FB). One to two Ospreys were reported from eight localities between September 6 and November 1 (m. ob.). Two Mississippi Kites were seen along the Mississippi River, Carlisle County and three at BWMA, August 27 (BPB, BN, S. Washburn) and one at Reelfoot Lake, Fulton County, September 8 (BN). Single Bald Eagles returned by late September to the Falls (LR, DN), Dale Hollow (CS) and Nolin Lake (KC); October and November arrivals were seen at BWMA (TY), Rough River (KC), Cumberland Lake (CS), Cumberland Gap (BA) and Cave Run Lake (FB), and there were eight (5 ad., 3 im.) at Dale Hollow, November 24 (RS) and 15 at BWMA, November 30 (TY). Single Northern Harriers were reported from Madisonville (JH), Owensboro (RI), Louisville (BN, BBC), Central Kentucky Wildlife Management Area (hereafter CKWMA — GR), Carter Caves State Park (LMc), Clark Hatchery (FB), and six at Cumberland Gap (BA). Single Sharp-shinned Hawks were recorded at six locations (m. ob.), and while hawk watching at Cumberland Gap, four were seen on October 1 (S, DS, FS), 10 on September 23 and nine on October 14 (BA). Few Cooper's Hawks were reported, but seven were in migration over Cumberland Gap, October 1 (S, DS, FS). A fair movement of Broad-winged Hawks was noticed as several hundred passed over southwestern Jefferson County during the week of September 10 (DS); about 30 in Oldham County, September 16 (JC) and 40 on the same date at Cumberland Gap (RM); a count of 98 at the latter location, September 23 (BA) and 10 there October 1 (S, DS, FS). Rough-legged Hawks were scarce with only four sightings of single birds: Boone County (DN), north of Lexington (MF), west of Lexington (JK) and at Louisville (FS, S). Most encouraging were the reports of Peregrine Falcons in eastern Kentucky. The earliest Peregrine was sighted at Cumberland Gap, September 16 (RM), two adults there, September 23 (BA), one near Pine Mountain, September 30 (S, DS, FS) and one at Clark Hatchery, September 30, October 12 and 23 (FB). A Peregrine was also observed at the Falls, September 27 and 30 (BN, G. Adams, BPB, JL, LR).

Soras through Cranes — There were five reports of Sora Rails: three from Louisville (DN) and two at Clark Hatchery (FB) from September

8 to November 2 (DN). A Common Moorhen was present at Camp Ernst Lake, Boone County from October 14-29 (LMc). The American Coot migration was evident during October 23-30 and the highest count was 4500 at Lake Pewee (JH). The first autumn flight of 173 Sandhill Cranes passed over Valley Station, November 2 (BN), flocks of 100-150 flew over east Louisville, November 6 (BPB), 36 the following day (KC), 100 birds over Cave Hill Cemetery, November 13 (BPB) and 50 in a suburban area of Louisville, November 17 (CS); some smaller groups also passed through central Kentucky during the same period.

Shorebirds — Shorebird migration was not spectacular. There were no Piping Plovers, Willets, Upland Sandpipers, or American Woodcock reported and numbers were low for most species, with the exception of Pectoral, Dunlin and Stilt Sandpipers. Some species lingered well into November. One to five Black-bellied Plovers were at the Falls with the earliest on August 14 (LR) and the latest on November 11 (BPB); three were at Freeman Lake, Elizabethtown, November 3 (JG) one at Chalk Bluff, August 27 (BPB, BN, S. Washburn); and six was the high at Clark Hatchery, October 31 (FB). Lesser Golden Plovers were present in numbers of one to three at Lake Pewee (JH), the Falls (m. ob.), FCRA (JEL) and Clark Hatchery (FB). Nine Avocets were spotted at Mayfair Basins on August 6 and singles there September 15 (DN) and at the Falls, October 25 (DN, LR, BPB). One to five Ruddy Turnstones were present at the Falls (BPB, DN, BN, BA), two at Dam #53 (BN, BPB) and two at Pulaski County Park (JEL). The birds at the latter location from August 29-September 4 are probably the first reported for that county. The Red Knot, a rare transient, was first observed on September 2 at the Falls (JEL, JC, BN), two were there the following day and one at Mayfair Basins (BPB). Few Sanderlings were reported: the earliest were two at the Falls August 25, six as the high on September 2 (BN) and one to two intermittently until September 19 (S, BPB); three along the Mississippi River, Carlisle County, one at Dam #53, August 27 (BPB, BN, *et al.*); one at Lake #9, September 1 (BPB, R. Cassell) and one on west shore of Lake Barkley, November 10 was late in departing (CP). Western Sandpipers were seen at Louisville, Lake #9, Paradise Steam Plant and Clark Hatchery, with the earliest on August 5 at the Falls and a high of 12 there on August 8 (BN) and 10 at Lake #9, August 27 (BPB, BN) and the latest on October 5 at Clark Hatchery (FB). White-rumped Sandpipers were present at the Frankfort Fish Hatchery (MF) and at the Falls, where they numbered 6-8 on October 27 (BPB, JL) and last recorded there October 30. One to three Baird's Sandpipers showed up at the Falls from August 18 (S, FS) to November 4 (BPB); several times at Lexington, October 24-31 (BA); one at Dam #53 (BN, BPB) and three as late as November 8 at Clark Hatchery (FB). Pectoral Sandpipers were widespread and in moderate numbers; a flock of 73 at the Falls, August 8 was the earliest (BN, S. Washburn) and latest at Jacobsen Park, Lexington, October 29 (BA). A single Dunlin arrived at FCRA on September 29 (JEL), but numbers were not present until late October: 50 at Clark Hatchery, October 23 (FB); 30 at Jonathan Creek, October 30 (CP); 50-65 at the Falls, October 27, but 112 there October 29 (BPB), smaller groups remained through mid-November, with the latest at Mayfair Basins, November 24 (JC). One to five Stilt Sandpipers were at Honker Lake, Lake Barkley, Mayfair Basins, the Falls, Frankfort Fish Hatchery, but 130 were at Lake #9 on September 1 (BPB,

R. Cassell) and 100 plus there September 2 (BM); and a few lingered at Honker Lake until the last week of November (CP). Interesting records of the Buff-breasted Sandpiper included 10 at the Falls, September 2 (BN, DN), six in Carlisle County, August 27 (BPB, BN, S. Washburn) and four at Mayfair Basins, September 4 (BN). A single Long-billed Dowitcher was seen and its call note heard at Lake #9, September 1 (BPB) and 2 (BM). A Wilson's Phalarope at Mayfair Basins on August 18 (BPB) and 19 (BN) and September 2 (JC) was the only one reported.

Gulls — A first-year Franklin's Gull was present at the Falls on November 1 (BPB, LR, JL). Bonaparte's Gulls were few: six at Kentucky Dam, November 25 (CP); two at the Falls, November 8-10 (BN) and 6 to 8 November 30 (S, FS). A first-year Thayer's Gull was seen at the Falls, November 8-11 (J. Caruso, BPB, BM, LR). The bird of the fall season was the immature Sabine's Gull discovered at the Falls and identified by Brad Andres, September 9 and later by B. Palmer-Ball, Jr. Details have been published.

Terns — One to five Caspian Terns visited the Falls, with the earliest on August 8 (BN) and the latest on November 2 (DN, BN, BPB); also one at FCRA on September 28 (JEL). One to three Common Terns were present at the Falls, Towhead Island, Lexington Reservoir, FCRA and Pulaski County Park (m. ob.) between August 9 and November 19. The latter is a late date of one bird at the Falls (BPB). There were eight Forster's Terns at the Falls on October 3 (DN) and one was seen as late as November 5-6 (BPB). The species was also present at Lexington Reservoir (BA) and FCRA (JEL). One to five Least Terns were seen in Hickman, Fulton, and Carlisle Counties on August 27 and September 1 (BPB, BN). An interesting record was that of 15 Black Terns at Pulaski County Park, August 22 (JEL).

Cuckoo through Woodpeckers — The only Black-billed Cuckoos reported were individuals at Madisonville, September 14 (JH) and at Westport, August 25 (S). A dead Northern Saw-whet Owl was picked up in the northern part of Land Between the Lakes on November 24 and appeared to be a "fresh kill;" it established the first record for this species in that area (CP). The migration of the Common Nighthawk was not impressive and only small groups passed over east Louisville with highs of 62 on August 18 (FS), 250 on August 25-26 (DN) and 50+ at Pulaski County Park, September 6 (JEL); latest date at Lexington, October 28 (BA). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were quite common in the Fort Knox area during September and last observed there on October 9 (JG); one at the Falls of the Rough, October 17 (KC) and a probable one in east Louisville, November 2 (MS). Red-headed Woodpeckers were in larger numbers at Lexington area from late August through mid-September (MF), while at Prospect the species was "totally absent" for the second year (JK).

Flycatchers through Creepers — Olive-sided Flycatchers were seen at Red River Gorge, September 15 (BA) and at CKWMA, October 1 (GR). Sightings of the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher included singles at two locations in Louisville, August 22 (DN) and 25, also two on September 16 (BPB) and one at Raven Rock, September 22 (BA). A Least Flycatcher call note was heard on August 17 and one singing on September 16 at Louisville (BPB). Purple Martins were definitely migrating on August 23 when

750-1000 were seen (DS) and 7500-10000 in late August and early September at the Falls (BPB). A Tree Swallow at Mayfair Basins on November 22 was unusually late (JK) and a flock of 156 American Crows there on November 2 (DN). Three Fish Crows were detected in Carlisle County, August 27 (BN *et al.*). Red-breasted Nuthatches were scarce everywhere. Brown Creepers were more numerous in the Fort Knox area than in recent years (JG).

Wrens through Shrikes — One to two Sedge Wrens and Marsh Wrens were reported at Louisville, October 18 (BPB, BN) and two of the latter species at Clark Hatchery, October 31 and November 26 (FB). There was an increase in the number of both species of kinglets over 1983 in Rowan County; highest counts were 28 Golden-crowned and 73 Ruby-crowned at Three Lick Branch, October 29 (FB). A small "wave" of Gray-cheeked Thrushes passed through Glasgow on October 5 (RS). Groups of 10-50 Water Pipits were present from September 30-November 23 at various places in the Lexington area, Shakertown (MF), Clark Hatchery (FB), Louisville (BPB), Burnside State Park and FCRA (JEL). Flocks of Cedar Waxwings were present from September 30-November 30; highest count was 200 at Clark Hatchery (FB). A Loggerhead Shrike at Winchester, November 24 was the only one reported (BA).

Vireos and Warblers — White-eyed Vireos were still present the last few days of October in Pulaski, Madison (GR) and Warren Counties (JC), while a Solitary at Lexington Cemetery on November 8 provided a late date (BA). The warbler migration was drawn out over a long period of time with no big waves noted. Only the most noteworthy records are mentioned below. A Golden-winged Warbler at Bullittsburg, September 25 was unusual there (LMc). A single Orange-crowned Warbler reported at Louisville, October 2 (BPB). A Magnolia Warbler at Eubank on October 28 was late (JEL). Cape May Warblers lingered rather late: one at Eubank, October 19 (JEL) and one at Carter Caves, October 20 (LMc). Yellow-rumped (Myrtle) Warblers did not seem as common as usual at Lake Pewee (JH), but good numbers were at Clark Hatchery with a high of 200+ on October 25 (FB). A Blackburnian Warbler was present at Eubank on October 28 (JEL) and a Yellow-throated Warbler was there October 17 (JEL). A Northern Waterthrush at CKWMA on October 20 was a fairly late transient (GR). Two Connecticut Warblers were reported: one at Lexington, September 17 (RM) and one at Fort Knox area, October 14 (JG) was late. A Mourning Warbler was seen on October 8 at Louisville (DN).

Tanagers through Emberizines — A Summer Tanager at Louisville on November 3-4 was late (DN). A Blue Grosbeak at Eubank on October 10 was fairly late in departing (JEL). Indigo Buntings were "abundant" at CKWMA and last observed there on October 29 (GR). Tree Sparrows were scarce and only mentioned at CKWMA (GR). Savannah Sparrows at the Clark Hatchery were above those of the fall of 1983: 30 on September 22 and 15 on October 4 (FB); singles at CKWMA, November 2 (GR) and at Louisville, October 18 and November 21 (BPB). Four Henslow's Sparrows at Clark Hatchery on November 4 were late stragglers (FB) and a Grasshopper Sparrow was present at CKWMA, November 22 (GR). A LeConte's Sparrow was roped in a field at Louisville on October 28 (BPB, BN, JC, A. Barron). Single Lincoln Sparrows were recorded at CKWMA

on October 1, 12, 20 and four birds on November 2 (GR). White-throated Sparrows were not common until the last week of October at Madisonville (JH) and there were 293 at Tree Lick Branch, October 29 and 30 (FB). White-crowned Sparrows arrived later than normal and numbers were low at Fort Knox (JG), Louisville (S) and absent at Owensboro (RI). Dark-eyed (Slate-colored) Juncos were also late in arriving, with the exception of a single bird on September 26 at Louisville (S). A single Lapland Longspur was seen flying over a Louisville field on November 20 (BPB) and three Snow Buntings were at the Falls on November 28 (Brian Anderson, BPB).

Blackbirds, Finches — The largest flock of Rusty Blackbirds during the fall was 250 at Harrodsburg, November 21 (BA). Purple Finches were late in arriving and were very scarce, some observers had not seen any by the end of November. During the latter part of November 50-75 House Finches were present at CKWMA (GR) and 25-50 at Bowling Green feeders (WM) and smaller numbers at Murray (CP) and in the Louisville area (S). Pine Siskins were scarce. Good concentrations of American Goldfinches were in the Lexington area (MF) and at the Falls of the Rough (KC), but scarce at Valley Station (DS). Three Evening Grosbeaks at Prospect on October 17 were the only ones reported (FK).

Contributors — Brad Andres (BA), Fred Busroe (FB), John Callahan (JC), Kathryn Clay (KC), Jackie Elmore (JEl), Sherri Evans (SE), Michael Flynn (MF), Ed Groneman (EG), John Getgood (JG), J. W. Hancock (JH), Ramon Iles (RI), Wilbur Jackson (WJ), John Krull (JK), Frank X. Krull (FK), Julian Lewis (JL), Robert Morris (RM), Wayne Mason (WM), Burt L. Monroe (BM), Lee McNeely (LMc), Doxie Noonan (DN), Barry Nichols (BN), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB), Clell Peterson (CP), Lene Rauth (LR), Gary Ritchison (GR), Carl Schultz (CS), Russell Starr (RS), Anne L. Stamm (S), F. W. Stamm (FS), Donald Summerfield (DS), Midge Susie (MS), Scottie Theiss (ST), Tom Young (TY), Beckham Bird Club (BBC). — 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40222.

FIELD NOTE

EARED GREBE IN WARREN COUNTY

The Eared Grebe (*Podiceps nigricollis*) is considered to be a casual vagrant in Kentucky (Barbour et al., Kentucky Birds: A Finding Guide, 1973). Previous state records were reported during the winter months from along the Ohio River (Mengel, The Birds of Kentucky, A.O.U. Monograph 3, 1965), and from Kentucky Lake in 1978 (Stamm, Ky. Warbler 58: 43, 1978). In May 1984, two individuals of this species were observed on McElroy Lake in Warren County. The purpose of this note is to document these sightings from southcentral Kentucky.

A single individual of this species was first observed on May 10 by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., who phoned to alert me of the bird's presence. Later that evening, I drove to McElroy Lake and confirmed his identification. The bird was in full breeding plumage and the available light was such that most distinguishing characteristics could be noted. It contrasted sharply with the Pied-billed Grebes (*Podilymbus podiceps*) which were

also present, in that it was a darker, more slender bird with a black head and neck, and a slender, pointed bill. A black crest and a bright yellowish-brown ear tuft were clearly visible whenever the bird presented itself in side view. Although Horned Grebes (*Podiceps auritus*) were not present, the black neck of this bird, coupled with the fact that the yellow-brown ear markings extended well below the eye line, prevented the possibility of confusing the two species.

Following this initial sighting, the lake was checked daily from May 11-19. On May 12, a second Eared Grebe, also in breeding plumage, had appeared. From May 12 through May 14, both individuals were observed during mid-afternoon and early evening visits. By the afternoon of May 15 only one individual remained and it was present in the area until the morning of May 18. Frequent visits to the lake, and checks at surrounding bodies of water after this date failed to relocate the species.

These sightings represent the first for this region of Kentucky. Reasons for the occurrence of these individuals in this area are unknown. — WAYNE M. MASON, Department of Biology, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Ky. 42101.

NEWS AND VIEWS

VULTURE VIEWERS

Please be on the lookout for Turkey Vultures with dark green wing tags. A number of adults and nestlings have been marked in Wisconsin as part of a study of breeding biology, mortality and migration. Tags are encoded with a small "u" and large white numerals, 1-99. If a marked vulture is sighted, please report the date, exact location, tag number, whether tag is on the right or left wing, name and address of observer and other pertinent observations to Madison Audubon Society, Rt. 1, Box 128A, Arlington, WI 53911 (phone 608-635-4160).

ACTIVE MEMBER DEPARTS

Pierre Allaire has accepted an appointment with the University of Florida at Gainesville and must depart from Kentucky by March 15. Because he and Lori will be unable to attend the spring meeting, this note is to wish all their friends in the organization well. Thanks are extended to Pierre for his many contributions to K.O.S. The K.O.S. wishes them well on their new venture. Their new address will be McCarty Hall, U.F. 32611.

K.O.S. SPRING MEETING

Our spring meeting will take place at Mammoth Cave National Park on April 19, 20 and 21. Reservations at the park should be made at your earliest convenience. Camping is also available. Mark the dates on your calendar and plan to enjoy good birding and the company of those who share a common interest. Those interested in making a presentation at the Friday evening program should contact the Program Chairman, Fred Busroe, Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, Morehead State University, Morehead 40351.