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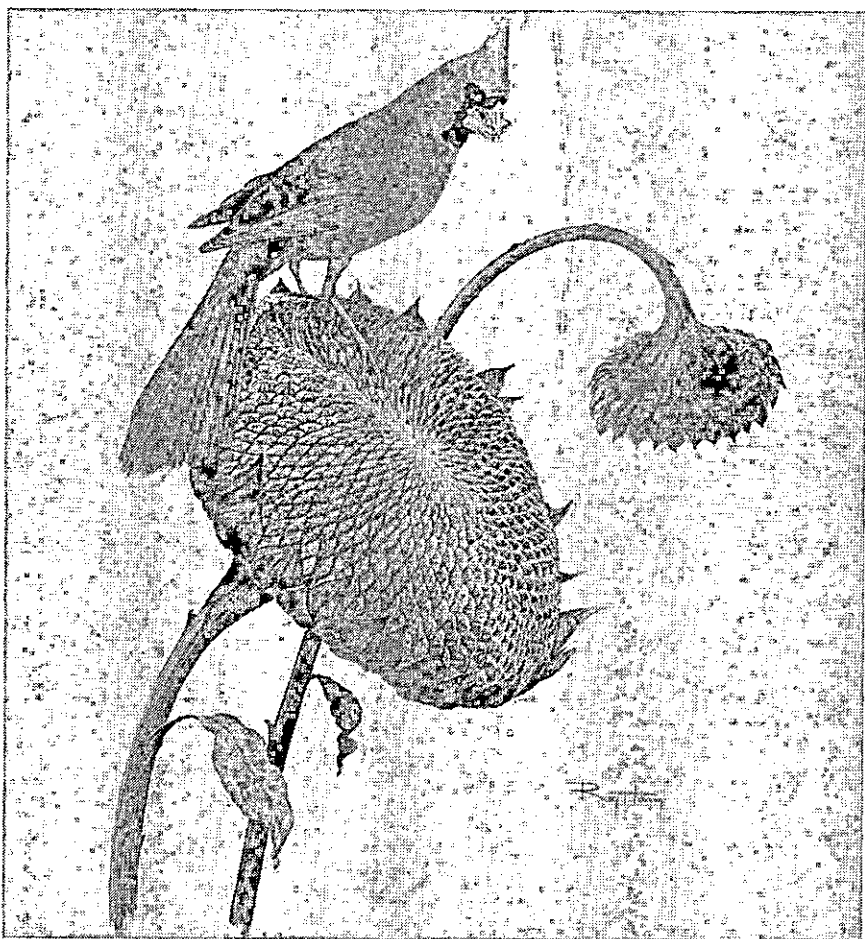
The Kentucky Warbler

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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THE COVER

We thank our staff artist, Ray Harm, for the excellent reproduction of the Northern Cardinal.

BIRD USE OF EASTERN KENTUCKY SURFACE MINES

DEBRA B. CLAUS, WAYNE H. DAVIS AND WILLIAM C. McCOMB

Allaire (1979, 1980) and Allaire *et al.* (1982) listed 115 species of birds using surface mines in eastern Kentucky. Several species were previously unknown from the Cumberland Plateau.

During the spring and summer of 1987 we studied the birds on two of the mines where Allaire had conducted his research: Two Mile and Press Howard mines operated by the Falcon Coal Company, near Quicksand, Breathitt County. We added 17 species to the list of birds that utilize mined areas, noted changes that have occurred in abundance of several species since Allaire's studies, and gathered data pertaining to the questions that Allaire (1980) posed as requiring further research.

We made systematic observations at regular weekly intervals from February 26 through August 17. Each trip involved driving 32 km over haul roads and walking 5 km to conduct an experiment with bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) nest boxes. We spent four to six hours, from mid-morning to late afternoon, on the mines. On each trip, we recorded all birds seen or heard while on the mines. We did not count birds heard in the forest at the edge of the mines, but did record those in the dead trees that were killed by mining operations.

The type of mining procedure utilized was mountain-top removal. After reclamation, the land consisted of an extensive high plateau that ranged from flat, rocky land to rolling hills. Reclamation seeding was predominantly wheat (*triticum aestivum*), oats (*Avena sativa*), foxtail millet (*Setaria italica*), sorghum (*Sorghum* spp.) birdfoot trefoil (*Lotus corniculatus*), alfalfa (*Medicago sativa*), clovers (*Trifolium* spp. and *Melilotus* spp.), vetches (*Coronilla* and *Vicia* spp.) Korean lespedeza (*Lespedeza stipulacea*), fescue (*Festuca arundinacea*), with other less common herbaceous plants. Seeding has also established scattered stands of black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*). Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) was the dominant shrub, but there were numerous plantings of many other kinds of trees and shrubs. Density of vegetation ranged from almost impenetrable (in some places in late summer), to sparse with scattered bare ground. Age ranged from extensive areas of bare soil, where mining was active, to areas that had been untouched for more than a decade. Water sources included: impoundments that provided ponds roughly every 0.5 km, permanent marshlands, seasonal shallow water, and mudflats. The area provided habitat for a remarkably diverse avifauna. Such an area of prairie-like plant forms that was not harvested, plowed, grazed, or mowed is unusual in North America and new and unique in Kentucky. It provided an interesting opportunity for continuing studies of birdlife.

The following accounts are of the species for which we can provide information that adds to the knowledge provided by Allaire. Species that we saw but that were not observed on mined land by Allaire are marked with an asterisk; a double asterisk indicates species that Allaire listed as migrants on mountain-top removal mines but which we observed as summer residents.

Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*). We saw one in an impoundment on August 7 and August 17. This was not a likely breeding site. Allaire (1980) listed this species as a migrant and winter resident.

*American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*). One was flushed from the marshy edge of an impoundment on April 16.

*Great Egret (*Casmerodius albus*). One was flushed from a mudflat on April 23.

Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*). This is the only hawk that we would consider fairly common; during March and April our counts ranged from three to nine. The voles *Microtus pennsylvanicus* and *M. ochrogaster* which did not occur in southeastern Kentucky (Barbour and Davis, 1973) have recently invaded the region and become common on the mines, providing a good source of food for predators. The harrier is a migrant but is a good candidate for future breeding on the mines.

**Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipter striatus*). Allaire (1980) listed this species as an uncommon migrant. He saw one hawk capture a small bird on July 31, and we saw two on the mines on August 17.

Merlin (*Falco columbarius*). One seen on April 16 was apparently the second record of this species on mined land. Allaire (1980) saw one capture a horned lark (*Eremophila alpestris*); ours appeared to be attracted to a flock of Brown-headed Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*). Like the harrier, this is a bird of the open country and finds suitable habitat on the mines.

Northern Bobwhite (*Colinus virginianus*). This bird has probably increased on the mines since Allaire's studies when it was listed as uncommon. Pairs were often flushed and the loud calls were heard at many of our stations. Our highest count was eleven on June 4. Our first record of bobwhites was on April 30; the numbers increased thereafter suggesting that they may have spent the winter at a lower elevation, or along the mine edges where we did not travel.

Greater Yellowlegs (*Tringa melanoleuca*). February 26 was the first sighting; one appeared at a shallow pond. One was seen on June 4 in temporary standing water where reclamation was in progress. The latter record is later than any listed by Mengel (1965).

*Bonaparte's Gull (*Larus philadelphia*). One was observed feeding in a small pool on April 2.

*Rock Dove (*Columba livia*). We saw one straggler on a power line on June 4.

*Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*). One was heard June 18 in a locust grove.

*Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*). One was heard in a stand of locust trees. Apparently the growth of the small trees and shrubbery has provided suitable habitat that was not there during Allaire's studies.

*Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubus*). We observed one on May 4.

*Red-bellied Woodpecker (*Melanerpes carolinus*). We heard one June 11 in a dead tree at the edge of the mine.

*Downy Woodpecker (*Dendrocopos pubescens*). We saw a pair foraging in a locust grove on February 26, probably on twig borers.

**Eastern Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*). Allaire (1980) listed this species only as an uncommon migrant. We had three resident pairs.

*Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*). Blue jays were seen occasionally in the black locust groves or flying across the mines.

*Tufted Titmouse (*Parus bicolor*). Titmice were occasionally seen and heard in the black locust trees.

*Blue-gray Gnatcatcher (*Poliophtila caerulea*). One was observed on June 11 flying across the road from one patch of black locust to another.

**Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*). Allaire listed this species only as a rare migrant; there are now several resident pairs. Apparently the growth of brushy areas has provided suitable habitat.

*Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*). We have two records of this species from the locust groves (May 20 and June 4). Obviously these trees have grown to provide some marginal habitat for this woodland species since Allaire's studies.

**Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*). Allaire listed this species as a rare migrant. It is now well-established as a common summer resident. From May 7 on, we would see or hear at least two chats. Our highest count was on June 18 with six birds.

*Summer Tanager (*Piranga rubra*). We observed an adult female feeding in a row of *Elaeagnus augustifolia* shrubs on June 18.

*Scarlet Tanager (*Piranga olivacea*). An adult female and two juveniles were seen in a locust thicket on July 23.

**Northern Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*). Allaire listed the cardinal only as rare during migration. We recorded only three singing males. This is surprising as there seems to be plenty of good habitat for this species.

**Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*). There were two pairs resident from May through August 17, one in a dense planting of a woody shrub *Lespedeza* spp, and the other in two groves of locust with understory of this shrub. Monroe (1969) listed this species as rare from April into July in Kentucky. Allaire listed it as a rare migrant.

*Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*). This is an established summer resident, occurring in several little colonies at widely scattered places on the mines. Our largest count was eight singing males (June 18). Allaire (1980, 1981) speculated that Dickcissels would colonize the suitable habitats that were being created on the mines.

Savannah Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*). This is another species which Allaire (1980) discussed as a likely candidate for future breeding on the mines. We found it only as a migrant between April 16 and May 7.

Bobolink (*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*). Bobolinks are apparently more common now than when Allaire listed them as an uncommon migrant. They were first observed on April 16 and last on May 20. They were most common on April 30, May 7, and May 14 when they were spotted in flocks of up to 59 birds and also as scattered individuals and small groups. This is one of the birds that Allaire suggested be monitored for possible future nesting on the mines.

Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*). Cowbirds appeared in flocks of as many as 100 or more through March and April. In May some pairing was noted but most were seen in small flocks of four to six. On June 4, there were again flocks of more than 100. On July 31 we saw a flock of more than 600 perched on wires. Perhaps many of these overly-abundant parasites pass the summer as non-paired non-breeding birds.

European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*). Allaire listed this species as uncommon at all seasons and expressed surprise at its status. He wrote that it is just a matter of time before an invasion occurs. When we began work on the mines in 1982, starlings were uncommon. Several broods were raised in our experimental boxes and their numbers have increased each year. In 1987, a pair nested in mining machinery and five pairs raised broods in our boxes. In July, flocks of 100 or more starlings, the majority of which were juveniles, appeared in the fields and on the wires. Most of these birds apparently were raised away from the mines.

*House Finch (*Carpodacus mexicanus*). We observed individuals and small flocks occasionally in locust groves from April through July.

It is of interest to note some of the birds we did not find. Allaire (1980) found no resident American Robins (*Turdus migratorious*), although he saw them during migration. We saw no robins. Apparently the rocky surface and almost no soil makes for unsatisfactory forage for this species.

Allaire listed the House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) as a species likely to be encountered. Although there are buildings, people, grain fields, and nest boxes there are no House Sparrows on the mines.

The Prairie Warbler (*Dendroica discolor*) was listed by Allaire only as a rare migrant. We did not find this species. This is remarkable for there is now much excellent habitat and the Prairie Warbler is abundant in suitable habitat throughout eastern Kentucky. Mengel (1965) wrote that its song can be heard in the heat of the day from virtually every scrubby hillside and ridge top of the Cumberland Plateau.

We thank the Falcon Coal Company, Jackson, Kentucky, for permission for our continuing studies on their lands and the North American Bluebird Society for financial aid.

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THE SPRING SEASON OF 1988

ANNE L. STAMM

Reports of birding observations were submitted from western Kentucky all across the state to Cave Run Lake and Big Black Mountain, but little from south-central Kentucky. In general the contributors were of the same opinion that the season was extremely dry and warm. The average temperature for each month, March, April and May was above normal. Rainfall for the three months in the Louisville area was about four inches below normal. Also, western sections of the state, Frankfort and Lexington all had little precipitation. Many of the creeks, ponds and rivers were at levels far below normal.

As usual, there was some disagreement between observers in evaluating the migration. One observer wrote that "migration was rather good compared to recent years" while another thought it was a "dismal migration." The majority of contributors, however, agreed that while species were observed, numbers were quite low. Nevertheless, the material indicates that some species arrived early and a few lingered beyond normal departure dates. The Purple Gallinule and Eared Grebe were probably the most interesting rarities sighted.

The nesting material reported in the spring reports will be incorporated into the summary of the summer period.

Abbreviations — BWMA = Ballard Waterfowl Management Area, Ballard County; BBC = Beckham Bird Club; KOS = Kentucky Ornithological Society; LP = Lake Pewee; SWMA = Sauerheber Wildlife Management Area; CKWMA = Central Kentucky Wildlife Management Area; S.H. Farm = Surrey Hills Farm; WKMA = Western Kentucky Wildlife Management Area.

Loons through Bitterns — Two Common Loons returned to Lake Pewee on March 7 and remained until May 14 (JH); singles at Cave Run on April 11 (FB) and Kentucky Lake above the Dam on May 4-5 (BPB, D. Parker, J. T. Erwin), May 23 and 26 (DS, S, FS) and May 28-29 (BPB *et al.*). Pied-billed Grebes were not numerous. The highest count — 15 — was at Louisville on March 20 (LR). An interesting find was the immature Red-necked Grebe at SWMA, Henderson County on March 26 (LR, KC). Another noteworthy record was the Eared Grebe on the Crescent Hill Reservoir, Louisville on May 24 (HS). Five Double-crested Cormorants were first noticed at the Falls of the Ohio on March 17, but 16 were there on April 25 (LR), also up to 16 until mid-May (BPB); a total of 16 on the islands near Hamlin on May 7 (JTE, M. Miller); and a flock of 14 over CKWMA on April 15 (GR). A single American Bittern was found near Petersburg, Boone County on May 7 (LMc) and at SWMA, Henderson County on May 6 (BPB, D. Parker). A Least Bittern was recorded at the Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County on May 19, but three were there on May 31 (FB).

Hérons — Great Blue Herons were recorded at Bondurant, Fulton County with "many" observed on April 28 (CP); three to four at Kentucky Lake, Columbus-Belmont State Park and Swan Lake, Ballard County on May 25-26 (S, DS, FS); one at Owsley Fork Lake on March 24 (AR, TR), but a high of 45 at Mayfair Basins, Louisville on March 12 (JK, FK) and 13 there on March 25 (LR). Great Egrets were reported from the following locations: "many" at Bondurant, April 28 (CP); small numbers elsewhere in Fulton and Ballard counties during April and May (BPB); three at Swan Lake on May 25 (S, DS, FS); singles at East Bend, Boone County (LMc), McAlpine Dam on May 6 (LR) and Clark Fish Hatchery May 6 and 11 (FB). Three Snowy Egrets were observed at BWMA on May 4-5, but 15 on Mitchell Lake on BWMA on May 29 (BPB, D. Parker); and a single bird on May 25 at Swan Lake (S, DS, FS). An adult Little Blue Heron was unexpected on the lake of the Daviess County Fish and Game Farm on April 19 (AP, MP); five on Swan Lake, Ballard County on May 25 (S, DS, FS); and approximately 25 birds (mostly adults) on BWMA May 29 (BPB). Cattle Egrets were reported from only western Kentucky with up to 20 flying across US 45 north of Mayfield, Graves County on May 10 (CP); about 30 in a field near Oscar, Ballard County and flocks over Swan Lake (no date given — BPB) and only two at Swan Lake on May 25 (S, DS, FS). Green-backed Herons arrived later than usual and numbers were few except at the Clark Fish Hatchery where an average of 45 birds were seen on each trip there from May 1 to May 31 (FB). Black-crowned Night-Hérons were first reported on March 24 from Shippingport Island with 27 birds, but numbers built up to 152 on May 20 (LR); a few at other spots in the Louisville area (BPB); one below Kentucky Lake Dam on May 23 (S, DS); one at East Bend on May 30 (LMc); and one to two at Clark Fish Hatchery April 15 to May 31 (FB) were the only birds mentioned. A Yellow-crowned Night-Heron was found on the lake in Daviess County Fish and Game Farm on April 26 (AP); four birds observed at Shepherdsville (KC, LR) and a pair on Obion Creek, Hickman County (BPB).

Waterfowl — Some observers felt that the migration of waterfowl was rather "dull" and numbers were low since many of the ducks and

geese had already passed through Kentucky in late February and early March. Three Snow Geese were still present at Danville on March 5 (FL). Two Canada Geese stopped at the small lake at my neighbors yard on April 14 and were gone the following day (S). Migratory flocks of Mallards were seen on Chaney Lake, Warren County on March 5 where 500 were noted (BPB). Forty-five Blue-winged Teal were seen at Lake #9 on March 26 and 75 at SWMA on April 24 (BPB). Only small numbers (3-12) were found at Jonathan Creek (CP), Lake Pewee (JH) and Mayfair Basins (LR, FK, Jr.). A concentration of 150 Northern Shovelers at SWMA March 26 was exceptional (LR, KC), while 40 Gadwall and 75 American Widgeon were observed at Lake #9 on the same date (BPB). The 20 Canvasbacks at LP on March 2 were the only ones reported (JH). High counts of Ring-necked Ducks included 49 at Clark Fish Hatchery March 12 and 16 (FB) and 284 at LP on March 2 (JH). A Greater Scaup was still at Towhead Island on April 10 (BPB) and two lingered through April 26 at LP (JH). Fifty Lesser Scaups showed up on the lake at the Daviess County Fish and Game Farm March 25 (AP, MP). Five Surf Scoters (4 female, one male in breeding plumage) were discovered on Kentucky Lake above the Dam on May 4 and provided Kentucky with its second spring record (BPB, D. Parker). A few Common Goldeneyes were reported: six at LP on March 2 (JH), two in Marshall County on April 14 (CP), a female at Lake Barkley above the Dam on May 5 which tied our late record (BPB), but a male above Kentucky Dam on May 26 was unusually late and established a late state record (bird photographed, S, FS, DS). Buffleheads peaked with 52 at Clark Fish Hatchery, March 16 (FB). The four Hooded Mergansers at Camp Ernst, Boone County on April 10 (LMc), two pairs at Owsley Fork Lake on March 24 (AR, TR) and two at SWMA on April 24 (BPB) were the only ones reported. Red-breasted Mergansers included three in a flooded ditch in Hays Kennedy Park, Louisville on March 25, five there April 1 (LR), a few at the Falls of the Ohio in April and early May (BPB), 26 at Clark Fish Hatchery on April 20 (FB): and one on a small body of water near Mt. Vernon, Rockcastle County on May 28 (DN). Four Ruddy Ducks were still present at LP on April 13 (JH) and two at Lake Barkley on May 5 (BPB, D. Parker).

Hawks — No hawk flights were observed. The only noteworthy movement was the 125 Turkey Vultures at Clark Fish Hatchery on March 4; and an average of 30 birds per each trip there through May (FB). Single Ospreys appeared as early as March 30 at Louisville and Clark Fish Hatchery (LR, FB, respectively); other singles showed up during April and May at Carpenter Lake, Daviess County (AP), Spring Fork Lake, Grayson County (JP), Owsley Fork Lake (AR, TR), Burlington and Camp Ernst in Boone County (LMc), Columbus-Belmont State Park (DS, S) and two in Livingston (BPB, D. Parker) and Rowan counties (FB). As usual, Mississippi Kites were found in western Kentucky with the earliest at Columbus-Belmont State Park on May 10 (CP), four at Hickman in Fulton County on May 24 (DS, FS) and a "few birds" in Ballard, Carlisle and Hickman counties on May 29 (BPB, D. Parker). The first record for a Mississippi Kite in Grayson County was established on May 15 and 17 (MM, BM). An adult and an immature Bald Eagle were still present at Clark Fish Hatchery on March 16 (FB). Single Sharp-shinned Hawks were reported at Petersburg on March 9 (LMc),

Barren County, March 31 (MS) and at Madisonville on April 29 (JH). A few Broad-winged Hawks were present at CKWMA (TT), Upton (LR), Boone Cliffs and Big Bone Lick State Park in Boone County (LMc), Sadieville, Scott County (LMc) and Owsley Fork Lake (AR, TR).

Grouse through Cranes — An adult Ruffed Grouse with two young was seen in Bell County on May 29 (LR) and another with young in Harlan County on May 29 (DN). A Wild Turkey was seen in Mammoth Cave National Park and others were heard calling on May 21 (MS).

One to four Virginia Rails were present at SWMA during late April and early May (BPB *et al.*) and a good movement of Soras occurred there on May 6 with 30 birds present (BPB, D. Parker); two to four at Clark Fish Hatchery during May 6-26 (FB); and one in Hart County on May 7 (MS, S. Kistler, C. Middleton). A Purple Gallinule on Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County on May 14 was noteworthy (W. Schoettler, KC, H. Clay, m. ob.). Two Common Moorhens appeared at SWMA on April 24 (BPB, D. Ebel). There was a good movement of American Coots at LP on March 30 with 462 birds (JH). One lingered near the marina at Kentucky Lake on May 23 (S, DS, FS). The Sandhill Crane migration took place during the first week of March with 30 flying over Industrial Park on March 2 (FK, Sr.), heard over Shelbyville Road on March 7 (FK, Jr.) and 10 over Butler High School on March 9 (JM), all in Louisville; three flocks totaling 100 birds east of Shepherdsville, Bullitt County on March 3 (S. LeCompte *vide* BPB); 25 at Chaney Lake and 50 at McElroy Lake, Bowling Green (BPB).

Shorebirds — The shorebird migration was drawn out over a long period and the greatest movement occurred in late March. A single Lesser Yellowleg was at Chaney Lake, Warren County on March 5 (BPB) as were Greater and Lesser Yellowlegs and two Pectoral Sandpipers in the Danville area (FL with W. Kemper). Approximately 350 Lesser Golden Plovers were observed in scattered flocks in Fulton County on March 26-27 (BPB). Three Semipalmated Plovers were present in western Henderson County on April 24, but 25 were there on May 6, also eight to 12 at BWMA and western Fulton County May 4-5 (BPB); and five to nine at Clark Fish Hatchery May 6 to 27 (FB). High counts of Greater Yellowlegs included 35 at SWMA on March 26 (LR); about 50 at Bondurant on April 28 (CP); and 35 in western Fulton County on May 5 (BPB, D. Parker). About 200 Lesser Yellowlegs were seen in scattered flocks in western Fulton County on March 26 (BPB); 30 at Bondurant on April 28 (CP) and 26 at Clark Fish Hatchery on May 19 (FB). Solitary Sandpipers arrived later than usual and in small numbers with the earliest at East Bend on April 2 (LMc). A single Willet was seen at the Falls of the Ohio on May 12 (BPB) and another, possibly the same bird, on May 20 (D. Parker). Spotted Sandpipers were still present on May 30 at East Bend (LMc) and at the Falls of the Ohio (BPB). Only two Upland Sandpipers were reported: one in Hickman County on April 26 (BPB, R. Cicerello) and one in the Danville area (W. Kemper *vide* FL). A single Ruddy Turnstone, rare in spring, was found on the Falls of the Ohio on May 20 (D. Parker) and observed there May 25-26, two birds there on May 24 (BPB). Few Semipalmated Sandpipers were reported, but three were at SWMA on April 24 (BPB); present during May at Clark Fish Hatchery with a high of 24 on May 26 (FB); and the 60 peeps at the Falls of the Ohio

were "probably mostly semi's." (BPB). Three White-rumped Sandpipers were recorded at Lake #9 on May 28 and three to five birds on Mississippi River sandbars in Carlisle County on May 29 (BPB, D. Parker). Over 400 Pectoral Sandpipers were counted in scattered flocks in western Fulton County on March 26 and 200 in scattered groups in western Henderson County on April 24 (BPB); smaller numbers (1 to 11) observed at Clark Fish Hatchery March 23-May 30 (FB). Two Dunlin in Henderson County on April 24 (BPB, D. Ebel) and one on Mitchell Lake on May 5 were the only ones reported (BPB, JTE, D. Parker). A Stilt Sandpiper along SR 94 at Mud Creek in western Fulton County was fairly early and was closely studied with yellowlegs on March 26 (BPB). A Short-billed Dowitcher was identified by its call notes on April 5 at SWMA, one to four in Ballard and Fulton counties on May 4-5 (BPB); and 12 on May 19 at Clark Fish Hatchery (FB). A good flight of 18 Common Snipe was observed at Hays Kennedy Park on March 25 (LR). An American Woodcock with two young was at CKWMA on April 10 (GR).

Gulls — An adult Laughing Gull appeared at the Falls of the Ohio on May 8 (BPB, A. Mullen) and another at Smithland Dam on May 27 (BPB, D. Parker). An adult Franklin's Gull was discovered at the Falls of the Ohio on the morning of April 20 (LR), also observed that evening and three were there on April 22, two on April 23 (BPB); and a sub-adult at Smithland Dam on May 28 (BPB, D. Parker). Eight Bonaparte's Gulls were seen on the Falls of the Ohio on March 29 (LR); three on April 20 and eight on May 6 at Clark Fish Hatchery (FB) and an adult in summer plumage on Kentucky Lake May 4 (BPB, D. Parker). Ring-billed Gulls were still present at various locations in May with about 200 or more at Kentucky and Barkley Dams on May 4 (BPB); about 20 adults and immatures at Kentucky Dam on May 26 (S, DS, FS); 250 at the Falls of the Ohio on April 22, but only 50 there on May 17 and up to 15 in late May until the gates were closed (BPB). Danville reported a good number this spring with 136 on March 5 (FL); and 100 at Clark Fish Hatchery on May 6, one on May 19 (FB). Approximately 10 Herring Gulls were still present at Kentucky Lake on May 4-5 (BPB) and one below the Dam on May 26 (S, DS); 16 adults arrived at the Falls of the Ohio on May 25 and remained at least two days (BPB); and one in the Danville area on March 5, where previous records are few (FL).

Terns — Five Caspian Terns returned to the Falls of the Ohio on April 14, nine on April 19 (LR), peaked at 17 birds on April 22 (BPB); two at Dam #53 on the Ohio River, Ballard County on May 4-5 (BPB); and nine near Hamlin (JTE). Three Caspian Terns were seen as far east as Clark Fish Hatchery on April 20 (FB). A Forster's Tern arrived near Hamlin, Calloway County on the early date of April 4 and provided Kentucky with an early date (JTE). Two Forster's reached the Falls of the Ohio by April 14 (LR) and 10-12 there on April 22 (BPB); numbers increased to 15 to 20 birds at Kentucky Lake and Dam #53 on May 4-5 and three present at Smithland on May 6 (BPB). Reports on the Least Tern included four birds at Smithland Dam, six at Lake #9 on May 28 and two to 12 at scattered points along the Mississippi River in Hickman and Carlisle counties on May 29 (BPB). Black Terns were reported from three locations: Falls of the Ohio, Dam #53 and Kentucky Lake above the Dam (BPB).

Cuckoos through Whip-poor-wills — Both cuckoos were generally late and scarce. A Black-billed Cuckoo was noted on three days during the first week of May on S. H. Farm, Louisville (BPB). The Yellow-billed Cuckoo was first observed in Madison County on May 2 (TT) and at Madisonville, Hopkins County on May 3 (JH). A Common Barn-Owl was seen flying over Richmond on March 31 (GR). Great Horned Owls were reported at Creason Park and in Daviess County (BS, AP). Common Nighthawks were scarce and arrived later than normal (TT, DS, S); none were at the usual Danville sites (FL). Two Chuck-will's-widows were reported at Big Pond Sanctuary, April 4 (KC) and in northwest Hopkins County on April 14 (B. West *vide* JH). Whip-poor-wills arrived at CKWMA on April 4 (GR); in Hopkins County April 7 (B. West *vide* JH); and in Madison County on April 27 (TT).

Flycatchers through Wrens — Two Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were seen and heard at S. H. Farm on May 20 and one to two Alder Flycatchers were there on May 17 and 20 (BPB); another of the latter species was heard and seen in Calloway County on May 24 (S. DS, FS). A Willow Flycatcher in Madison County on May 2 tied our early date (TT); one in Petersburg May 19 (LMc); five at Clark Fish Hatchery on May 30 (FB) and a colony in Whitley County on May 29 (BM). Six Least Flycatchers were present on Big Black Mountain May 29 (LR, DN). A flock of 40 Horned Larks was observed on Covered Bridge Road, Oldham County, March 5 (FK, Jr.). Purple Martins were late in arriving and generally scarce. Two good movements of Tree Swallows were noted at Clark Fish Hatchery with approximately 400 present on March 30 and 300 on May 6 (FB); a late straggler was at the Marina at Kentucky Lake on May 26 (S, DS). Northern Rough-winged Swallows arrived later than normal with the earliest at Brandenburg, Meade County on April 5 (KC) and at CKWMA on April 10 (GR). The Northern Rough-winged Swallow migration at Clark Fish Hatchery peaked May 6 with 300 (FB) and Bank Swallows peaked there with 75 on May 6 (FB). There were few Bank Swallows, perhaps 20+, at Carroll County gravel pits on May 31 (S, FS). About 20 pairs of Cliff Swallows were at the North Fork of Rough River on May 21 (KC); at least 125 at Lake Barkley on May 23 (S, DS, FS) and 60 present at the Dam at Cave Run Lake May 19 (FB, L. Korman).

Three Fish Crows were heard in the vicinity of Bondurant and two to three near Sassafras Ridge, Fulton County on April 5 (CP); several along Obion Creek, Hickman County, the last week of April, singles in Ballard and Carlisle counties on May 4-5 (BPB); seven to eight in flight, with some calling, along the bluff of Columbus-Belmont State Park on May 10 and calls coming from other directions too (CP).

The finding of a Bewick's Wren singing near Jefferson County Forest on May 7 was noteworthy (DN). House Wrens arrived at CKWMA on April 13 (GR); although none were found on the breeding surveys in Casey and Pulaski counties, they appeared to have increased around farm houses in Boyle County (FL). A Marsh Wren was present at SWMA on April 24, two there on May 6 (BPB, D. Parker); and one in Hart County on May 7 (MS, S. Kistler, C. Middleton).

Kinglets through Vireos — A Ruby-crowned Kinglet near Union, Boone County on May 18 was a fairly late straggler (LMc). Eastern Bluebirds were quite common in Casey and Pulaski counties (FL) and "plenti-

ful" in Grayson County (KC). There was some evidence of Cedar Waxwing migration on March 26 when a flock of 20 arrived in the writer's yard and remained for the night. Late migrants were seen on May 24 when a flock of 17 was seen at Kenlake State Park (S, DS, FS). Single Loggerhead Shrikes were reported from Barren (MS), Grayson (KC) and Hickman (DS, FS) counties. A record of a Loggerhead Shrike in Edmonson County came too late to be included in the last issue (MS).

A White-eyed Vireo near Hamlin on April 4 was fairly early (JTE). There were only two reports of the Bell's Vireo. One was heard in rural Meade County on May 27 and was still there a week later in June; and one to two males heard on the WKMA on May 29 (BPB, D. Parker). A Philadelphia Vireo in a Danville yard on May 15 was the only one reported (FL).

Warblers — There was some difference of opinion on the warbler migration. One observer reported that "the movement was very light and sporadic" and another mentioned "no major warbler flights", but in general most observers felt that while most species were seen, numbers were low. Apparently there was a good movement of Northern Parula Warblers on April 7 in northwest Hopkins County where Bonnie West found about 20 near her home (*vide* JH). The Pine Warbler was heard singing at five locations in Calloway County on March 4 (JTE) and one in Daviess County Fish and Game Farm on March 15 (MP, AP). A Palm Warbler in Daviess County on March 19 was fairly early (MP). A Prothonotary Warbler arrived near Hamlin on April 4 (JTE). A Kentucky Warbler was seen in Madison County on the early date of April 3 (TT). Single Connecticut Warblers were reported at Joe Creason Park/Beargrass Nature Preserve on May 15 (BBC) and on S. H. Farm on May 17 (BPB). A Mourning Warbler was found at S. H. Farm on May 17 (BPB).

Grosbeaks through Finches — Three Rose-breasted Grosbeaks made their appearance at Big Pond Sanctuary on March 29 (KC). Blue Grosbeaks were reported at two locations in Hopkins County—May 2 and 6 (JH), CKWMA on May 3 (GR) and in Whitley County on May 29 (BM). There were only small numbers of Dickcissels reported from Grayson (KC), Fulton (S) and Oldham (LR, S) counties, but good numbers in Boyle County (FL).

A few Vesper Sparrows were observed near Maceo, Daviess County in late March where they are seldom seen (AP, MP). Grasshopper Sparrows returned to CKWMA on April 13 (GR) and were observed in Calloway (JTE) and Hart counties on May 7 (MS *et al.*). Henslow's Sparrows were reported from Breckenridge, Grayson and Madison counties (BPB, KC, GR, respectively). The rare LeConte's Sparrow was flushed from dense grass in Henderson County on April 5 (BPB, D. Parker). Six Fox Sparrows were present in the Herbert Clay's yard, Grayson County on March 13 where most sightings are of one to two birds (KC). A White-throated Sparrow was still singing at Joe Creason Park on May 23 (JK). The Harris' Sparrow at Lexington on March 22 was an unexpected visitor (BA).

A Bobolink was reported in Menifee County on May 7 (BM); several flocks of 50-100 were found in Ballard County on May 4-5 (BPB, JTE, D. Parker). A Western Meadowlark was closely studied and heard singing

on March 26-27 in farmland of western Fulton County near Lake #9 (BPB). Another interesting record was that of a Yellow-headed Blackbird at Upton, April 27 (LR). An Orchard Oriole arrived early at Hamlin on March 28 and provided a new early record (JTE). The bird was seen for about one week. The Northern Oriole arrived on schedule at CKWMA on April 13 (GR) and was common in Meade County on April 28-30 (KOS). Approximately 75 Pine Siskins remained at a Morehead feeder from March 1 through 30. Numbers began to taper off in April, but 25 were still present on April 23 (FB). There seemed to be a good movement at Fern Creek, Jefferson County and at Versailles, Woodford County on April 18-20 (*vide S*); last sighting reported at Berea on May 6 (AR). Ten to 15 Evening Grosbeaks lingered at Morehead through March, numbers decreased in April, but two remained through April 23 (FB); no others reported, except for one bird over Bernheim Forest on April 9 (BPB).

Contributors — Brad Andres (BA), Fred Busroe (FB), Kathryn Clay (KC), Joe Tom Erwin (JTE), James W. Hancock (JH), Frank Krull, Sr. (FK, Sr.), Frank Krull (FK, Jr.), John Krull (JK), Frederick Loetscher (FL), Lee McNeely (LMc), Burt L. Monroe, Jr. (BM), Mark Monroe (MM), J. Muntan (JM), Doxie Noonan (DN), B. Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB), Clell Peterson (CP), Joyce Potter (JP), A. Powell (AP), Mildred Powell (MP), Lene Rauth (LR), Art Ricketts (AR), Tina Ricketts (TR), Gary Ritchison (GR), Helga Schutte (HS), Bernice Shannon (BS), Anne L. Stamm (S), F. W. Stamm (FS), Mitchell Sturgeon (MS), Donald Summerfield (DS), Tim Towles (TT).

— 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40241.

FIELD NOTES

SHORT-EARED OWLS (*Asio flammeus*)

On February 7, 1988, near a waterfowl refuge in extreme southern Ohio County on a reclaimed strip mine area consisting of rolling prairie-like habitat, we observed Short-eared Owls in flight. We observed the first of 14 owls that flew by approximately 20 minutes before sunset. We returned the next evening and counted 15. We could hear the owls cry as they hunted quite close to us. On February 13, accompanied by Jan and Jim Howard, we again observed 15 owls. On February 14 we were accompanied by Joyce Porter and Dora Lee St. Clair. While we were walking across the area three owls came up from the ground as a group and four more flushed from the ground a short distance further. On March 5, Jan Howard and other members of the Owensboro K.O.S. observed five owls. No owls were observed on return trips March 12 and 13.

A number of Marsh Hawks were observed on each visit in the same habitat and Rough-legged Hawks were also observed in the area.

Two years ago one Short-eared Owl had been observed approximately four miles further north in similar habitat but was not investigated further at that time.

—BRENDA AND TONY EADEN, 12784 U.S. 231, Utica, Kentucky 42376.

ANOTHER PURPLE GALLINULE

On May 14, 1988, William Schoettler, who was visiting us at Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County, saw a strange looking bird walking around our pond. He called our attention to the bird and we readily identified it as a Purple Gallinule (*Porphyryla martinica*). The bright purplish-blue head, neck and underparts, yellow legs and feet and other characteristics were easily noted. The bird remained for several days.

The Gallinule was always on the sunny side of the pond during morning hours. At times the bird would walk on the tree limbs that were close to the water and turn leaves in search of insects. Many minnows, tadpoles and frogs are in the pond at this time of year.

The pond is approximately two acres in size surrounded by trees — pines, water willows, blackberry, birch, oak, maple, ash, cedar and dogwood — very dense edge. A bank about six feet high surrounds the pond hiding it from view. Deep woods are on two sides and open field and yard on the other two sides.

A "Bird Alert" was sent out and eight additional K.O.S. members had an opportunity to see this rare visitant. It was last observed on May 24.

As far as I know, Kentucky has only 13 records of the Purple Gallinule, but the species is known often to wander far from its normal range. This sighting of the Purple Gallinule is the fourteenth record for the state and the first for Grayson County.

—KATHRYN AND HERBERT L. CLAY, JR., 214 Sequoya, Louisville 40207.

NEWS AND VIEWS

ANNOTATED CHECKLIST OF THE BIRDS OF KENTUCKY IS READY!

Just a reminder that the *Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Kentucky* by Burt L. Monroe, Jr., Anne L. Stamm and Brainard L. Palmer-Ball, Jr. is ready for purchase from the K.O.S. Please, make checks payable to the K.O.S. in the amount of \$6.00 (\$5.00 for K.O.S. members) plus 5% sales tax if you are a Kentucky resident. Orders should be sent to the Kentucky Ornithological Society, 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville, Kentucky 40241.

K.O.S. FALL MEETING

The Fall meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society will be held at Kentucky Dam Village 30 September through October 2. Be sure to make your reservations for room accommodations early. Mark the dates on your calendar and plan to enjoy good birding with good friends. Those interested in making a presentation at the Friday evening program should contact the Program Chairperson, Virginia Kingsolver, Route 1, Carlisle, Kentucky 40311.