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The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

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IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| THE NESTING SEASON, 1992, Anne L. Stamm and Burt L. Monroe, Jr. | 55 |
| THE K.O.S. FALL MEETING | 59 |
| REPORT OF THE TREASURER, Dona Coates | 61 |
| FIELD NOTES | 62 |
| NEWS AND VIEWS | 64 |
| INDEX TO VOLUMES 61-68, Blaine R. Ferrell | 65 |

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

Organ of the *Kentucky Ornithological Society*, published quarterly in February, May, August and November. The *KENTUCKY WARBLER* is sent to all members not in arrears for dues. Membership dues are: Active or Regular, \$5.00; Contributing, \$10.00; Student, \$3.00; Life, \$75.00; Family, \$1.00 in addition to Regular, Contributing, or Life Membership dues; Corporate. All articles and communications should be addressed to the editor. Subscriptions, memberships and requests for back issues should be sent to the treasurer.

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THE COVER

We thank Ray Harm, our staff artist, for this excellent painting of a Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*).

THE NESTING SEASON, 1992

ANNE L. STAMM AND BURT L. MONROE, JR.

June was much cooler than last year. In fact, the average temperature for the month in Louisville was 72.1 degrees which is below normal. July temperatures, however, were on average, slightly above normal, but still much cooler than last year. Humidity was high for much of the month. Rainfall for the month of June was slightly below normal in the Louisville area, while in July the rainfall was 6.51 inches which is 2.41 inches above normal. In Lexington the rainfall was over 10 inches for the month.

Abbreviations: BWMA = Ballard Waterfowl Management Area, Ballard County; BBC = Beckham Bird Club; BBM = Big Black Mountain, Harlan County; BPS = Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County; BL = Black Lake, southwest of Bardwell, Carlisle County; BCNP = Boone Cliffs Nature Preserve, Boone County; BBS = Breeding Bird Survey; CEL = Camp Ernst Lake, near Burlington, Boone County; EBPP = East Bend Power Plant, Boone County; KOS = Kentucky Ornithological Society; L#9 = Lake No. 9, Fulton County; LBL = Land Between the Lakes, Trigg/Lyon counties; LPew = Lake Pewee, Hopkins County; Mayf = Mayfair Basins, Louisville, Jefferson County; McA = McAlpine Dam (Falls of the Ohio), Louisville, Jefferson County; MCFH = Minor E. Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County; PHSM = Peabody Homestead Surface Mine, Ohio County; SWMA = Sauerheber Wildlife Management Area, Henderson County.

Cormorants through Herons — Three Double-crested Cormorants were noted perched on dead trees on Shippingport Island, Jefferson County, June 23 (LR); one was at MCFH, July 5 (FB). A Least Bittern was seen at the edge of a marsh on PHSM, July 11 (LR, BBC). A single Great Blue Heron was seen at LPew, June 12 (JH); eight were in the vicinity of BL, June 19 (CP); one was at Mayf, July 1 (BM); thirteen were observed below McA, July 16 (LR); and four were seen at MCFH, July 25 (KC, LR). Six Great Egrets were found in the vicinity of BL, June 17 (CP); one at Mayf, July 1 (BM); one to three birds at McA, July 2-13 (LR); one at a pond near Carlisle, Nicholas County, July 14 (VK, WKi); two along River Road, Jefferson County, July 22 (CMS); and one at MCFH, July 5 (FB), with three there, July 25 (KC, LR). Four Snowy Egrets and nine Little Blue Herons (5 adults, 4 immatures) were observed in the vicinity of BL, June 19 (CP); an immature Little Blue Heron was present at a pond near Petersburg, Boone County, July 20 and 25 (LMc). The only report of a Cattle Egret was one near Fish Lake, Carlisle County, June 19 (CP). Numbers of Green-backed Herons in recent years have dwindled some in central Kentucky, but fairly good numbers are still in eastern Kentucky in the Appalachian Region; a nest of the Green-backed Heron was found near Owsley Fork Lake, Madison County (no date given — AR, TR); five birds were in the area of PHSM, July 11 (BBC, KC); two birds were noted in both Grayson and Nelson counties (KC); and 14 adults and 3 immatures were seen at MCFH, July 25 (KC, LR); The only report of Black-crowned Night-Herons away from the Louisville region were of six birds on the ponds of Andover golf course in Lexington, Fayette County, July 5 (LR), and one immature at MCFH, July 25 (KC, LR). The small colony of Yellow-crowned Night-Herons that nested prior to 1992 in Shady Lane Woods (University of Kentucky Farm, Lexington) deserted the site this year (AR); two birds were seen below McA, June 23 (LR).

Waterfowl — In Boone County, a Canada Goose was found incubating at EBPP, May 10, and during June adults with broods were noted at CEL and Petersburg (LMc); at least 79 were noted in Ohio County, July 11 (BBC, KC); and 70+ were recorded at MCFH, July 25 (KC, LR). A female Wood Duck with a brood of 14 and one with five young were seen at EBPP, May 9, and one with six young at a Belleview gravel pit, Boone County, May 10 (LMc); two adult birds were also present during the

period at BPS (KC). Mallards with broods were present in Boone County at Florence, May 9, and at CEL during May (LMc); three birds (2 males, 1 female) considered to be wild were seen about two kilometers north of Monticello airport, Wayne County, June 17 (SJS). A Hooded Merganser with a brood of eight young was seen at a slough on SWMA on a KOS field trip, April 26 (LMc).

Hawks through Bobwhite — Thirteen Black Vultures and 30 Turkey Vultures were noted at a traditional roost near Murphey's Pond, Hickman County, June 21 (CP, R. Head); and three Black and eight Turkey Vultures were found in the vicinity of Bondurant, Fulton County, June 29 (CP). An Osprey nest with an incubating adult was seen south of Silo Overlook on Lake Barkley, LBL (no date given — CP); one bird was seen at MCFH, July 25 (KC, LR). A Bald Eagle nest with two well-developed young was observed at BWMA beside SR 473; the parent birds were in the immediate area May 23 (CP). Also, a successful Bald Eagle nest at Mud Slough, BWMA contained three young, approximately five weeks old on May 13 (Charles Wilkins, *vide* Vicki Grafe); and one eaglet banded June 8 in a nest at Mammoth Furnace, Lyon County, Barkely Lake (Steve Bloemer *vide* Vicki Grafe). Only single Broad-winged Hawks were reported: one near Fulton in Fulton County and one in McCreary County, both on June 21, CP and SJS, respectively. Two immature Peregrine Falcons were seen below McA "chasing each other" as they flew over the rock ledge, July 16 (LR). One Ruffed Grouse (rufous morph) was seen crossing the road on BBM, June 13 (CMS, MM). Twenty-four Northern Bobwhites were found on the BBS in Hardin County, June 8 (KC, HC), and 32 on the BBS in Hardin and Meade counties, June 6 (BM); fourteen were recorded in Ohio County, July 11 (BBC, KC).

Shorebirds through Terns — A few shorebirds began returning in July but only in low numbers. A single Greater Yellowlegs arrived below McA, July 9 (LR); and another was at Mayf, July 22 (CMS). A Solitary Sandpiper appeared at a pond near Carlisle, Nicholas County, July 23 (VK, WKi); and two were at Mayf, July 28 (BM). A single Spotted Sandpiper was noted at L#9, July 31 (CP). Two Semipalmated Sandpipers were at MCFH, June 3, and eight on June 7 (FB). One Western Sandpiper was at Mayf, July 28 (BM). One White-rumped Sandpiper was noted at MCFH, June 3, and four on June 7 (FB). Although rare in summer, three Ring-billed Gulls were below McA, July 2 (LR). The only Least Tern reported was a single bird at L#9, July 31 (CP). Seven Black Terns were recorded at MCFH, July 26 (Kelly Nickles, *vide* FB).

Cuckoos through Kingfishers — The Yellow-billed Cuckoo has been scarce during the period in northern Kentucky (LMc); two to four birds were noted during June in Cumberland, McCreary, Wayne (SJS), Hardin (KC, HC), and Meade and Oldham counties (BM); two birds were present during the period of BPS and probably nested there (KC); and two were noted in Ohio County, July 11 (BBC, KC). Common Nighthawks seem to be dwindling in numbers in the Berea area, Madison County (AR); three birds were found in PHSM, where they probably nested on the ground (KC, BBC); and four birds were noted at Leitchfield, Grayson County, July 11 (KC). The Chuck-will's-widow is doing well in the Davis Hollow area, Berea, Madison County (AR); one bird was noted on a BBS in Cumberland County, June 2, and five in Wayne County, June 21 (SJS); and two throughout the period at BPS (KC). There were approximately six Whip-poor-wills heard throughout the period at BPS and adjacent areas (KC). Ruby-throated Hummingbirds are doing well in Western Kentucky: WB has six feeders up in his yard in rural Murray, Calloway County, and has attracted at least 20 adults, with about 40 birds (including immatures) by the end of July; at LBL about 30 adults were feeding at four feeders (WB); ten birds have been present during the period at BPS (KC); and fair numbers were in Woodford County (SH). Five Belted Kingfishers were seen at MCFH, July 25 (KC, LR).

Flycatchers through Swallows — Two Willow Flycatchers were recorded at Elk Creek, Hopkins County, June 5-July 28 (JH); two were calling at Ballardsville,

Oldham County, June 14 and 16 (BM); and two were present near Petersburg, Boone County, June 22 and July 25 (LMc). A Least Flycatcher was heard calling just below the summit of BBM, June 13 (CMS, MM). Eastern Phoebe were doing fairly well: a nest with five eggs was found at BCNP, April 18, with young in the nest on May 2 (LMc); sixteen were recorded on the BBS in Cumberland County, June 2 (SJS), 10 in Hardin and Nelson counties (KC, HC), three in McCreary County (SJS), and scattered reports elsewhere. Purple Martins were present but in reduced numbers: in three BBS in south-central Kentucky, one had no Purple Martins, one in Cumberland County had nine and one in Wayne County had five (SJS), but farther north counts in Nelson County recorded 14 (KC) and in Hardin-Meade counties 15 (BM). Interesting was a nest of Tree Swallows at CEL, June 2 (LMc); an adult bird was observed about two kilometers north of the Monticello airport, Wayne County, June 17, as it flew over a large pond with a few dead trees with cavities, a likely nesting location (SJS). A colony of 30 Rough-winged Swallows was found south of Laketon, Carlisle County, in the Mississippi River bank (no date given, probably June 19 — CP). Three small colonies of Cliff Swallows were again found under bridges in Boone County (LMc), and 50+ birds were under two bridges in Breckinridge County (KC); a pleasant surprise was finding a group of 30 Cliff Swallows building nests under two bridges in Marion County between Lebanon and Liberty, a new county record (FL).

Wrens through Waxwings — A Bewick's Wren nest at Leitchfield, Grayson County, was destroyed by House Wrens (AW); and a single bird was seen near Monterey, Owen County, June 6 (LMc). An adult Wood Thrush was seen feeding a fledged cowbird at BCNP, June 22 (LMc). A Cedar Waxwing was seen building a nest 15 feet up in a maple tree, three miles south of LaGrange, Oldham County, June 14, but the nest appeared abandoned June 16 (BM); 26 birds were noted at three locations in Cumberland County, June 2 (SJS); five birds were observed in one location on a BBS in Wayne County (SJS); and two to four birds were found at four locations in Hopkins County (JH).

Vireos through Warblers — A nest of a White-eyed Vireo was nearly complete at EBPP, May 10 (LMc); two to ten birds were noted on BBS in Cumberland, Wayne, McCreary (SJS) and Hardin (KC) counties; and two were present during the period at BPS, where they probably nested (KC). Two Bell's Vireos were seen near Hwy 369 (off School Road) in Ohio County, July 11. A Solitary Vireo was present in McCreary County, June 21, and also heard a few days earlier at the same site (SJS); many were singing on the upper elevations of BBM, June 13 (CMS, MM). There seemed to be a slight decline in Yellow-throated Vireos in Hopkins County as compared to areas visited since last year (JH); on three BBS in south central Kentucky, four birds were found in Cumberland County, June 2, at least five in Wayne County, June 17, and one in McCreary County, June 21 (SJS). Comments were few on the Warbling Vireo: numbers have decreased in some areas in Louisville where it formerly nested (S); it was recorded at four locations in Hopkins County, but fewer pairs are at LPew than previously (JH); and two were noted in Hardin County on the BBS, June 8 (KC, HC). At least two male Chestnut-sided Warblers were singing near the summit of BBM, June 13 (CMS, MM). A late Magnolia Warbler remained west of Fairbanks, along Hwy 607, Owen County, through June 6 and is one day later than our latest previous date (LMc). Several male Black-throated Blue Warblers were singing along the road to the summit of BBM, June 13 (CMS, MM); one was singing along Bad Branch, Letcher County, June 14 (CMS, MM). Pine Warblers summered again in Hopkins County (JH); seven were reported on the Monticello BBS in McCreary County (SJS); two were at BPS (KC); and one was noted in Hardin County (KC). A Yellow-throated Warbler was singing in mixed pines and deciduous forest at Kingdom Come State Park, Harlan County, June 13, which is of interest because of the ridgetop habitat rather than the normal, stream-bottom location (CMS, MM). The Prairie Warbler was reported in the following counties: Cumberland, Hardin, Grayson, McCreary, Nelson and Wayne. On two stops on the Monticello BBS in

McCreary County, three Cerulean Warblers were noted, June 21 (SJS). Three Swainson's Warblers were singing along Bad Branch, Letcher County, June 14 (CMS, MM). Several Canada Warblers were singing near the summit of BBM, June 13 (CMS, MM). The Yellow-breasted Chat appeared to be doing fairly well: it was more numerous around Owsley Fork Lake than previously (AR, TR); seventeen were present in Cumberland County, June 2, and nineteen at least in Wayne County, June 17 and 21 (SJS); and smaller numbers were noted in Hardin (KC, BM), McCreary (SJS), Nelson (KC), Ohio (KC) and Oldham (BM) counties.

Tanagers through Finches — Single Scarlet Tanagers were noted at three locations in Hopkins County during early July (JH). One male Rose-breasted Grosbeak was singing near the summit of BBM, June 13 (CMS, MM). Blue Grosbeaks were reported from the following counties: Cumberland, Hopkins, Ohio, Wayne, Hardin, Meade and Oldham. Dickcissels were in good numbers on PHSM with 50+ on June 20 (BBC, KC); a nest with five eggs was found one mile west of Sassafras Ridge, Fulton County, May 27 (BM, MM, CMS). Chipping Sparrows were found nesting in Grayson (KC) and Barren (RS) counties. It was interesting to find 30 Grasshopper Sparrows on the PHSM, June 30 (KC, LR, JA); four birds were found in Wayne County, June 17, and another in a different locality in the county, June 21 (SJS). Five Henslow's Sparrows were encountered on Hopewell Church Road, Ohio County, June 20 (KC, LR, JA), and three were present at the same place, July 11 (BBC). Noteworthy were the 16 Song Sparrow records at 12 locations in Hopkins County during June (JH). A pleasant surprise was the finding of two male and one female Bobolinks in a meadow off Hwy 42 near where Route 524 turns off to Westport, Oldham County, July 4 (BM, MM), and one observed in flight and another heard in the same vicinity on July 9 (S, FS). Nest-building of the Orchard Oriole was observed at Leitchfield (AW); numbers appear to have declined recently in some locations (S), although there were also reports from Hopkins (JH), McCreary and Wayne (SJS) counties. A House Finch was observed feeding a fledged young, May 18, in the Louisville area (FM); four nests were successful in southwestern Jefferson County, all nests built in hanging fern plants (VJ). American Goldfinches were numerous on the PHSM, July 11 (BBC, KC).

Contributors — Janet Aylward (JA), Wally Brines (WB), Fred Busroe (FB), Herbert L. Clay, Jr. (HC), Kathryn W. Clay (KC), James W. Hancock (JH), Smith Hundley (SH), Violet Jackson (VJ), Virginia Kingsolver (VK), Wendell Kingsolver (WKi), Frederick W. Loetscher (FL), Fred T. Mansmith (FM), Lee McNeely (LMc), Burt L. Monroe, Jr. (BM), Mark Monroe (MM), Clell Peterson (CP), Lene Rauth (LR), Art Ricketts (AR), Teena Ricketts (TR), Anne L. Stamm (S), Frederick W. Stamm (FS), Russell Starr (RS), Stephen J. Stedman (SJS), C. Michael Stinson (CMS), Alita Wilson (AW). We acknowledge with grateful thanks the helpful support of our contributors making this report possible.

—9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40241, and P.O. Box 23447, Anchorage 40223.

THE K.O.S. FALL MEETING

C. MICHAEL STINSON

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its 1992 fall meeting on the weekend of 2-4 October at Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park.

The meeting began after dinner Friday evening when President Lee McNeely welcomed KOS members to the state park. The evening program began with a short member's slide show. Following this, the group heard a presentation from Ms. Joyce Fitzgerald, who represents the Peabody Coal Company. She showed slides illustrating the bird life found in recent years on the reclaimed strip mines of western Kentucky, and encouraged cooperation between the Society and those who manage these areas. Her comments were complemented by those of M. Henshaw, a biologist with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife who works on the reclaimed areas. He discussed the desirability of input from KOS members in making wildlife management decisions. Next, Dr. Wayne Davis spoke briefly to the members about two topics. One was the need for new studies of neotropical migrant birds which breed in Kentucky; second was his work with Eastern Bluebirds as he has attempted to design an ideal nest box for the species. He announced that he had some nest boxes available for members to take after the meeting. A brief discussion of the field trips to be held Saturday morning ended the evening session, which was followed by an informal social hour.

Three field trips departed from the state park lodge Saturday morning at about 8 a.m. One group visited Smithland Dam on the Ohio River, another visited several areas in the Land Between the Lakes, and a third birded on the grounds of the park. Most members returned to the state park for lunch. The KOS Board met Saturday afternoon at 3:30 p.m. at the park.

The Saturday evening session began at 7:30 with a special presentation to Mrs. Anne Stamm of Louisville honoring her service to Kentucky ornithology over the past five decades. She received a framed photograph of a White-crowned Sparrow with a plaque commemorating the occasion. Next, President McNeely introduced the speaker for the evening, Dr. John Ferner of Thomas More College. Dr. Ferner was a member of an expedition to the Phillipine island of Panay in 1989 when several specimens of a previously undescribed species of bird were collected. He recalled many events from the expedition, including the moments leading up to and following the discovery of the bird, the Panay Striped Babbler (*Stachyris latistriata*). In addition to slides, Ferner had two specimens of the babbler to show to KOS members after the program ended. He also answered questions from the group.

After Ferner's presentation, the evening session continued with a few matters of business. Two changes to the Society's bylaws were passed without opposition. The first gave a revised definition of the role of the Society's Curator, and the second established the Kentucky Bird Records Committee as a standing committee of the Society; it had previously been functioning on an *ad hoc* basis. Next, the Nominating Committee presented the following slate of officers to serve the Society during 1993: President, Lee McNeely; Vice-President, Fred Busroe; Corresponding Secretary-Treasurer, C. Michael Stinson; Recording Secretary, Teena Ricketts. No additional nominations were made from the floor, and the slate was elected with no opposition. Next, Mike Stinson tallied birds seen by the group on Friday evening and Saturday and a list of 104 species was compiled. The evening session concluded with a brief discussion about possible field trips for Sunday morning.

Sunday morning, a group birded at a few locations in the Land Between the Lakes before leaving the area.

ATTENDANCE AT THE FALL MEETING

BENTON: Carolyn Jarnagin

BEREA: Teena and Arthur Ricketts

BOWLING GREEN: Priscilla and Blaine Ferrell

BURLINGTON: Janet Anderson, Kathy and Joe Caminiti, Lynda and Lee McNeely

CARLISLE: Virginia and Wendell Kingsolver

COX'S CREEK: Dona and Roger Coates

DANVILLE: Ginny and Neil Eklund

FLORENCE: Joan Carey

GILBERTSVILLE: Madilyn and E. J. Conard

LEXINGTON: Shirley & Wayne Davis, Jean & Michael Flynn, Virginia & Joe Robertson, Gerry & Jim Williams

LOUISVILLE: Karen Burns, Kathryn & Herbert Clay, Coleen & Fred Mansmith, Rose & Burt L. Monore, Jr., Brainard Palmer Ball, Jr., Don Parker, Anne & F. W. Stamm, Tanya & Michael Stinson

MACEO: Millie and Albert Powell

MOREHEAD: Fred Busroe

MURRAY: Clell Peterson

OWENSBORO: Margaret Craig, Lydia Greenwell, Mike Henshaw, Marilee & Wendell Thompson

PADUCAH: Gene Boaz, Bernice Cadell

SCIENCE HILL: Diane, Jackie, & Bradford Elmore

SOMERSET: Carolyn Hodges

STANLEY: Anna Lee and Thomas Stevenson

UNION: Karen and Tommy Stephens

UTICA: Brenda and Tony Eaden

JEFFERSONVILLE, INDIANA: Lene Rauth

DYERSBURG, TENNESSEE: Betty and Kenneth Leggett

BIRDS OBSERVED AT THE FALL MEETING

Birds observed on Saturday field trips to the Land Between the Lakes and the vicinity of Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park included: Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Green-backed Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, American Black Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Northern

Shoveler, Gadwall, American Wigeon, Hooded Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Merlin, Peregrine Falcon, American Coot, Lesser Golden-Plover, Killdeer, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Sanderling, American Woodcock, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Eastern Phoebe, Great-crested Flycatcher, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, Swainson's Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, Loggerhead Shrike, European Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, American Redstart, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellow throat, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, American Goldfinch and House Sparrow for a total of 104 species.

**REPORT OF THE TREASURER
FISCAL YEAR 1991-1992**

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| Bank Balance as of September 25, 1991 | \$1279.20 |
| RECEIPTS | |
| Membership Dues | \$3,641.00 |
| Interest Income: | |
| Endowment Fund | 196.14 |
| Gordon Wilson Fund | 84.89 |
| Meetings | 211.00 |
| Sale of Patches | 7.50 |
| Sale of Checklists | 51.40 |
| Sale of Annotated Checklists | 361.88 |
| Sale of Old Warblers | 15.00 |
| Sale of Books | 400.00 |
| (Tax) | 24.00 |
| Donations to | |
| Gordon Wilson Fund | 10.00 |
| Endowment Fund | 26.00 |
| | 5028.81 |
| | 6308.01 |

DISBURSEMENTS

| | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------|----------------|
| Printing Cost (Warbler - 4 Issues) | 2386.00 | |
| Printing for Materials, Bylaws, etc. | 187.45 | |
| Dr. Fred Alsop (honorarium) | 100.00 | |
| Speaker Expenses | 22.00 | |
| Membership Brochures | 200.15 | |
| Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (payment for Annotated Checklists) | 254.81 | |
| Kentucky State Treasurer (filing) | 4.00 | |
| Bird Alert Phone | 248.32 | |
| Safe Deposit Box (2 years) | 50.00 | |
| Office Supplies | 254.98 | |
| Sales Tax Use | 30.75 | |
| Postage | 499.47 | |
| Jeannie McKee (overpayment on Annotated Checklists) | 1.95 | |
| Paul Denit (overpayment dues) | 4.00 | |
| Spring Meeting | 190.00 | |
| ABA overpayment (Annotated Checklists) | 14.46 | |
| Kentucky Checklists | 71.50 | |
| Hawley Cooke Booksellers (refund) | 21.00 | |
| Beckham Bird Club Dues | 7.00 | |
| Jon Rickert (overpayment dues) | 8.00 | |
| Service Charge | .24 | |
| | | <u>4556.08</u> |
| | | 1751.93 |

Bank Balance as of September 24, 1992

ENDOWMENT FUND

| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Balance in Savings Account | 3371.09 |
| Certificates of Deposit (4) | <u>5891.43</u> |
| | \$9262.52 |

FIELD NOTES

Observations of a probable Pacific Loon in western Kentucky

During the afternoon of 3 May 1991, while birding at the dam forming Kentucky Lake on the border of Livingston and Marshall counties, Kentucky, Burt L. Monroe Jr., Mark Monroe, and I spent about 20 minutes watching an apparent Pacific Loon (*Gavia pacifica*). The loon was in basic or first winter plumage and was swimming in the company of a Common Loon (*Gavia immer*). Although we were never closer to the loons than about 100 meters and light conditions were only fair, we had two spotting scopes which allowed us to observe the loons reasonably well. Both loons remained fairly active while we watched them from a parking area alongside U.S. Route 62.

We realized that we were probably observing a Pacific Loon as we compared it to the Common Loon nearby. It was noticeably smaller than the Common Loon, and showed a distinct division along the sides of its neck between the dark nape and hind neck and the light throat and lower neck, as well as between the light ear coverts and dark crown. This pattern was clearly different from the patchy pattern on the

sides of the neck of the Common Loon. A dark area in front of the bird's eye was visible as well. Its bill was straight, not as thick as that of the Common Loon, and was held approximately parallel to the water. The loon's back and wings appeared dark, but may have had a pattern which we were unable to observe due to the distance at which we saw the bird. Monroe could see a dark line or chinstrap on the bird's neck using a higher power setting of his spotting scope; I could not see this feature with my own 20-power scope. The bird preened occasionally, allowing us to see the division between the dark dorsal and the light ventral sides.

While observing the bird we compared it to the text dealing with loon identification in K. Kaufman's *Field Guide to Advanced Birding* (Houghton Mifflin Company, 1990, pages 20-29). I also made a rough sketch of the bird while watching it. After leaving the dam area, we made phone calls to other birders to tell them of the bird's presence. Some birders reported seeing the loon on the following day and on 13 May (KW 67:52), though I am unfamiliar with details of their sightings. A report of our sighting was submitted to the Kentucky Bird Records Committee.

This bird was clearly a member of the Arctic/Pacific Loon complex. Given the known distribution of these birds, it is highly unlikely that the bird we saw was an Arctic Loon (*Gavia arctica*). Because criteria for distinguishing between these species in non-alternate plumages remain uncertain (*Birding* 20:12-28, 22:70-73, and 24:106-107), and also because the views we had of the bird were not ideal, the loon we saw is being reported here only as a probable Pacific Loon. Kentucky's first record of a loon belonging to this pair of species was a bird seen and photographed on Kentucky Lake 15-19 December 1990. That record, reported as a Pacific Loon on the basis of plumage characteristics (KW 67:27; 47-48 and *American Birds* 45:277-288), was of an individual in a plumage similar to the bird we saw. It may be that the earlier report and the one made here represent sightings of the same individual, which might have wintered on Kentucky Lake or nearby Lake Barkeley. If not, and there is no way to be sure, the bird reported here represents Kentucky's second record of an Arctic/Pacific Loon. — C. MICHAEL STINSON, Department of Biology, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY, 40292

Late nesting of House Wrens in Franklin County

Mengel (*Birds of Kentucky*, p. 343-344) indicates that the House Wren (*Troglodytes aedon*) is "often, if not regularly" double-brooded in Kentucky, giving a range of dates for clutch completion from "April 1-10 to July 11-20." Moreover, he approximates the peaks of clutch completion for the two broods as May 11-20 and June 21-30.

Based on Mengel's summary, the observation of the raising of a late, and perhaps third, brood of young in Franklin County is of interest. During July 1992, a pair of House Wrens used a nest box in a yard in Choateville, a western suburb of Frankfort, to raise a brood of young. Based on the late date, this brood was assumed to be the second raised by this pair in 1992. Six eggs were laid during early July and the young were calling in the nest and being fed constantly by both parents on July 21. Sometime during the next few days, the male of the pair seemingly ceased contributing to feeding the young in this box and began filling another nest box about 150 feet away with sticks. By August 11 this nest appeared complete but was empty. All of this occurred while the female involved in the previous nesting nearby continued to care for the young, apparently on her own.

On August 17, a bird was flushed from the second nest, which contained at least four eggs. It is unclear as to whether or not the incubating bird was the female from the previous nesting, especially in light of the fact that male House Wrens are known to be polygynous. On August 30, there were small young, perhaps about three days old in the nest. Sometime during the latter part of August, the male disappeared, and it is believed that the female alone fed the young during the entire period. On September 11, the fully grown young were observed anxiously peering out of the nest box and calling frequently. On the morning of September 12, two of the young were found in the grass near the nest box and placed in a nearby shrub. On the afternoon of September 13, at least three of the young were found with the female in a weedy fence line about two hundred feet away.

Because it is possible that the male was involved with more than one mate, it is impossible to speculate concerning the number of times the female that raised the late brood had nested earlier in the summer of 1992. However, it would appear that the male, and perhaps both members of the late pair, were involved in the hatching of three broods. Regardless, this nesting occurred approximately one month later than the latest dates reported by Mengel. Review of more recent literature finds no such accounts of late nesting in Kentucky, as well. — BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR., Louisville.

NEWS AND VIEWS

K.O.S. Field Trips

Saturday, 23 January 1993 - The field trip will be to the Markland Dam Area for waterfowl and winter birds. We will meet at the Markland Dam parking lot off Highway 42 between Warsaw and Carrollton at 9:00 a.m. EST. The trip will last to 11:30 a.m. EST. Leader: Lee McNeely (606-586-7520).

Saturday, 27 February 1993 - The first field trip will be to Spindle Top Farm-Reservoir for winter birds, following which, James Williams will provide a light supper at 5:00 p.m. We will regroup at Raven Run at 6:30 p.m. for the Woodcock walk. Come for all or part. We will meet at Denny's Restaurant, Route 922 at exit 115 off I-64 in Lexington at 2:00 p.m. EST. Leader: James Williams (606-269-3915).

Christmas Bird Count

Christmas (Mid-winter) Bird Counts should be carried out between December 17, 1992 and January 3, 1993. If you were a participant last year, you should have already received information related to your count. Those individuals who would like to initiate a Mid-winter Bird Count should contact the editor for report forms and other relevant information. Thank you.

Spotting Scope Available

Joyce Dawson (606-271-9199) has a Bushnell "Discoverer" 60 mm, 15 × 60 zoom spotting scope with a hard case and a Bausch and Lomb heavy duty tripod available. If you are interested in purchasing it, please contact her.

INDEX TO VOLUMES 61-68, 1985-1992

By BLAINE R. FERRELL

The names of participants and of species on the midwinter bird counts, Kentucky Ornithological Society meetings and seasonal reports have not been included in this index. The names of species on large tables have also been omitted. The capital letter R is indicative of a book review.

AUTHORS

- Andres, Brad '86:38-40, '87:41-42, '88:22R, '89:55-61
- Andrews, Lynda '86:46-47, '87:53-55, '88:31-32, '89:72-73
- Barron, Alan '90:73-80
- Bell, Jane '91:22
- Bell, Pat '91:22
- Boggs, Gary '91:33-45, '91:60-66
- Braun, Michael J. '88:34-36
- Brown, Robert K. '89:38-48
- Busroe, Fred M. '85:23-27
- Caminiti, Joe '91:86
- Caminiti, Kathy '91:86
- Cassell, Richard '86:21-22, '90:98-99
- Claus, Debra B. '88:39-43
- Clay, Herbert L. '88:51, '90:44-46, '90:99
- Clay, Kathryn '88:51, '89:23-24, '89:75-76, '90:99
- Cramer, Mark '87:53-55
- Davis, Wayne H. '88:39
- Durell, James S. '85:48-49, '86:46-47, '87:53-55, '88:31-32, '89:72-73, '90:63-64, '91:81-82, '92:49-50
- Eaden, Brenda '88:50
- Eaden, Tony '88:50
- Ebel, Diane '86:21-22
- Elmore, Jackie '91:67-71
- Erwin, Joe Tom '91:22-23
- Evans, Sherri A. '86:75-76
- Flam, Jeff '89:96
- Gillenwater, Marquita '88:74, '91:51
- Groetsch, Patricia L. '86:61-64
- Haag, Wendell R. '89:77-78
- Hodges, Carolyn Gay '92:51
- Jackson, Violet '86:20
- Jackson, Wilbur '86:20
- Kingsolver, Wendell R. '88:72-73
- Kistler, Steve '90:28
- Korfhage, Harriet '85:64
- Loetscher, Frederick W. '87:23-24R
- Logsdon, Charles W. '86:30-31
- MacGregor, John R. '89:27-28
- Mason, Wayne M. '85:20
- McComb, William C. '86:61-64, '88:39-43, '88:54-60
- McNeely, Lee '87:67, '88:23-24, '89:76-77, '91:86, '92:31-36
- Monroe, Burt L., Jr. '89:78-79, '90:51-52; '90:52-62, '90:83-93, '91:3-10, '91:27-33, '91:51-60, '91:75-81, '92:3-11, '92:12-14, '92:43-49, '92:55-58
- Monroe, Mark '89:78-79
- Neace, Susan E. '92:51
- Palmer-Ball, Brainard, Jr. '85:35-36, '85:66-67, '86:21-22, '86:75-76, '87:3-5, '87:66-67, '88:23, '89:24-27, '89:27-28, '89:48-49, '89:77-78, '90:28-29, '90:28-29, '90:30-31, '90:47, '90:47-48, '90:73-80, '90:97-98, '90:98-99, '91:22-23, '91:33-45, '91:47-48, '91:60-66, '91:67-71, '91:86-87, '91:88, '92:63-64
- Parker, Don '91:22-23, '91:47-48
- Parson, Juanelle '85:49-51
- Pearson, William '85:49-51
- Porter, Joyce L. '87:24
- Powell, A. L. (Bert) '85:67
- Rauth, Lene '90:97-98
- Ritchison, Gary '85:39-42, '86:76-77, '87:27-35
- Robinson, John C. '87:66-67
- Shadowen, Herbert E. '85:65-66R, '86:22-23R, '86:34-35R, '88:20-21, '89:75-76R, '90:27-28R, '90:83, '91:71-72R, '92:26-27R
- Sole, Jeffery D. '88:54-60
- Stamm, Anne L. '85:13-19, '85:27-32, '85:42-48, '85:48-49, '85:55-60, '86:3-9, '86:26-29, '86:41-46, '86:65-70, '87:5-12, '87:35-39, '87:47-53, '87:58-62, '88:15-20, '88:27-31, '88:43-50, '88:61-67, '89:3-11, '89:31-38, '89:61-72, '89:75-76, '89:83-92, '90:3-14, '90:35-42, '90:52-62, '90:83-93, '91:3-10, '91:27-33, '91:51-60, '91:75-81, '92:3-11, '92:31-36, '92:43-49, '92:55-58
- Stamm, Frederick W. '85:65
- Stephens, Tommy '91:86
- Stevenson, Thomas E. '85:52
- Stickley, Allen R. '87:42-43

- Stinson, C. Michael '91:66-67, '92:39R, '92:62-63
 Thompson, Pete '88:36
 Timbrook, Shirley '85:67-68
 Triquet, Alexis M. '88:54-60
 Woolfenden, Glen E. '90:73
 Yancey, David '89:72-73, '90:63-64, '91:81-82, '92:49-50
 Yancey, Roger '88:31-32

BIRDS

- American Bittern '88:40
 American Coot '89:56, '91:34,42
 American Crow '89:43, '92:
 American Kestrel '86:47, '87:54, '88:32, '89:24, '89:73, '90:28, '90:64, '91:82, '92:49
 American Robin '88:21, '88:42
 American Wigeon '86:31, '91:41
 American Woodcock '88:21
 Anhinga '86:31
 Bittern Least '91:38
 Blackbird
 Brewer's '85:26, '87:43, '89:52, '91:65
 Red-winged '85:52
 Rusty '87:42, '88:21
 Bluebird
 Eastern '86:21, '88:21
 Mountain '86:21-22, '90:98
 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher '88:41
 Blue Jay '98:41
 Bobolink '88:42, '91:65, '91:68
 Brown Creeper '89:77-78
 Brown-headed Cowbird '88:40, '88:42
 Brown Thrasher '88:41
 Bufflehead '85:24, '86:31, '91:42
 Canary '86:76
 Canvasback '85:24, '86:31, '88:21, '91:41
 Cedar Waxwing '88:21
 Chickadee, Carolina '92:
 Common Goldeneye '86:31, '89:56, '91:42
 Common Grackle '88:21, '89:39
 Common Moorhen '90:76-77
 Common Nighthawk '90:78
 Common Snipe '88:21, '91:35, '91:62-63
 Common Yellowthroat '92:13
 Cormorant, Double-crested '85:24, '91:38
 Cuckoo, Black-billed '88:40
 Yellow-billed '88:40
 Dickcissel '88:41, '89:74, '90:98
 Double-crested Cormorant '88:21
 Dowitcher
 Long-billed '91:34,35, '91:62
 Short-billed '89:76-77, '91:62
 Duck
 American Black '86:31, '89:56, '91:40
 Ring-necked '86:31, '91:41
 Ruddy '91:42
 Wood '88:72-73, '91:36,39
 Dunlin '85:24, '91:61
 Eagle
 Bald '85:26; '85:48-49, '86:46, '87:53-55, '88:21, '88:31-32 '88:36, '89:72-73, '90:63-64, '90:99, '91:81-82, '92:49-50
 Golden '85:48-49, '87:53-55, '88:31-32, '89:23, '89:72-73, '90:63
 Eastern Kingbird '91:64
 Eastern Phoebe '89:27-28
 Egret
 Cattle '86:75,76, '90:29, '91:38,39
 Great '85:24, '86:78, '87:55, '88:40, '89:96, '91:38
 Snowy '87:55, '91:39
 Finch
 House '86:20, '87:27-35, '88:42
 Purple '87:27-35
 Gadwall '85:24, '88:21, '91:41
 Gallinule, Purple '88:51
 Godwit, Marbled '91-34, '91:60
 Goldeneye, Common '85:24
 Goose
 Canada '85:67, '86:30, '87:66, '88:21, '91:39
 Ross' '87:66-67
 Snow '86:30, '87:66, '88:21, '91:39
 Greater White-fronted '85:67, '86:30, '87:66, '91:39
 Goshawk, Northern '90:64, '91:82, '92:49
 Gray Catbird '88:21
 Grebe
 Eared '85:19-20, '91:35,38
 Horned '85:20, '85:24, '91:35,38
 Pied-billed '85:19, '88:21, '88:40, '91:37-38, '91:86-87
 Green-winged Teal '88:21, '89:56

Grosbeak

Blue '88:41
Evening '89:27
Rose-breasted '91:86

Grouse, Ruffed '88:54-60

Gull

Bonaparte's '88:40, '91:63
California '85:34-35
Franklin's '91:63
Glaucous '89:49
Herring '85:35, '87:3,4, '89:49, '91:63
Iceland '87:3,5, '89:48-49
Lesser Black-backed '92:12
Ring-billed '85:35, '89:49, '91:63
Thayer's '87:3-5, '89:48,49

Hawk

Broad-winged '86:38,39, '87:67
Cooper's '86:39, '86:47, '87:54, '89:73,
'90:64, '91:82, '92:49
Harris' '88:22
Marsh '86:47
Red-shouldered '86:39, '86:47, '87:54,
'88:32, '89:73, '90:64, '91:82, '92:49
Red-tailed '86:47, '87:54, '88:22,
'88:32, '89:24, '89:73, '90:64, '91-82,
'92:49
Rough-legged '86:47, '87:54, '88:32,
'88:50, '89:24, '89:73, '90:64, '91:82,
'92:49
Sharp-shinned '86:39, '86:47, '87:54,
'88:32, '88:40, '89:73, '90:64, '91:82,
'92:49

Hérons

Black-crowned Night- '86:75,75, '89:
52, '91:39
Great Blue '89:60, '89:77, '89:96,
'90:27, '90:74, '91:38,
Green-backed '86:75, '91:39
Little Blue '86:75,76, '90:29
Yellow-crowned Night- '86:75,76

Horned Lark '88:40, '89:24, '89:78, '91:64

Hummingbird

Allen '89:24,25, '90:44
Broad-tailed '89:25, '90:44,45
Ruby-throated '88:41, '89:25,27,
'90:44,45
Rufous '89:24,24, '90:44-46
Selasphorus '89:24-27

Junco, Dark-eyed '83:41, '87:27-35,

Killdeer '91:42,43

Kinglet Ruby-crowned '88:21

Knot, Red '91:35, '91:60

Lapland Longspur '91:65

Loon

Arctic '91:48, '92:12, '92:63
Common '89:56, '91:22, '91:37, '91:47,
'92:62

Pacific '91:47-48, '92:12, '92:62-63

Red-throated '91:22, '91:47, '92:12

Yellow-billed '92:13

Long-billed Curlew '90:29

Mallard '86:31, '89:56, '91:35, '91:40

Merganser

Common '85:24, '86:31, '88:21

Hooded '86:31, '88:72, '91:35,42

Red-breasted '85:24, '89:56, '91:42

Merlin '88:40, '90:64, '91:64, '91:82, '92:49

Mourning Dove '89:43,44

Northern Bobwhite '88:40

Northern Cardinal '86:76,77, '88:41

Northern Gannet '88:34-36

Northern Harrier '87:54, '88:21, '88:32,

'88:40, '88:50, '89:24, '89:73, '89:78,

'90:64, '90:74,76,79,80, '90:99, '91:82,

'92:49

Northern Mockingbird '88:21

Northern Oriole '92:13

Northern Pintail '86:31, '88:21, '91:40

Northern Shoveler '89:56, '91:40, 41

Oldsquaw '85:24

Osprey '86:47, '87:54, '88:21, '90:64,

'91:36, '91:64, '91:82, '92:49

Ovenbird '92:13

Owl

Barred '89:44

Common Barn '85:51-52, '88:23-
24, '89:39, '89:73, '90:64, '91:82, '92:
49

Eastern Screech- '89:39,43

General '85:65-66R, '89:38-48

Great Horned '89:43, 44, '92:49

Northern Saw-whet '85:66, '87:24,
'90:73

Short-eared '88:50, '89:23, 24, '89:39,

44,46, '89:75-76, '90:74,75,77, 78,80

Peregrine Falcon '87:23, '89:23, '90:28,

'90:64, '91:64, '91:82, '92:49

Phalarope

Red-necked '90:29-30, '91:35, '91:63

Wilson's '85:24, '90:29, '91:63

Pintail, Northern '85:26

Plover

Black-bellied '85:24, '91:34,42

Lesser Golden '91:34,35,42

Piping '91:35,42

Semipalmated '85:24, '91:42, '91:60

- Prairie Falcon '89:23, '89:78-79, '90:28, '90:79
 Purple Martin '87:44, '91:65
 Rail Virginia '91:23
 Redhead '85:24, '86:31, '88:21, '91:41
 Redpoll '88:21
 Rock Dove '88:21, '88:40
 Roseate Spoonbill '89:96
 Ruff '88:23
 Rufous-sided Towhee '86:76
 Sanderling '88:23, '91:60
 Sandhill Crane '87:66, '88:21, '88:74
 Sandpiper
 Baird's '91:61
 Buff-breasted '88:23, '91:35, '91:62
 Least '90:29, '91:61
 Pectoral '90:29, '90:30, '91:61
 Semipalmated '85:24, '86:35, '90:29, '91:60
 Solitary '91:44
 Spotted '91:44,45
 Stilt '88:23, '91:61
 Upland '91:45
 Western '91:35, '91:60,61
 White-rumped '85:24, '89:77, '91:61
 Scaup
 Greater '86:31, '88:21, '89:52, '91:41-41
 Lesser '86:31, '89:56,58, '91:35,42
 Sora '91:42
 Sparrow
 Bachman's '86:76
 Chipping '86:76, '88:21, '90:47,48
 Clay-colored '90:47-48
 Field '87:27-35, '90:48
 Fox '87:27-35
 Grasshopper '90:79
 Harris' '85:39
 Henslow's '90:78
 House '85:39, '88:42
 Lark '91:23
 Savannah '88:21, '88:42
 Sharp-tailed '90:30-31, '91:65, '91:70
 Song '86:76,77, '87:27-35
 Swamp '86:76, '90:30
 Vesper '86:76
 White-crowned '86:76, '87:27-35
 White-throated '87:27-35
 Starling, European '85:67, '87:42 '88:21, '88:42, '89:39
 Stork, Wood '85:24
 Swallow
 Bank '91:65
 Barn '91:64,65
 Cliff '91:65
 Northern Rough-winged '91:65
 Tree '85:24, '91:65
 Swan
 Trumpeter '86:31
 Tundra '87:66, '91:39, '92:12
 Tanager
 Scarlet '88:41
 Summer '88:41
 Teal
 Blue-winged '88:21, '90:47, '91:35,40, '91:66-67
 Cinnamon '90:47, '91:66-67, '92:12
 Green-winged '85:24, '91:40
 Tern
 Black '91:36, '91:64
 Caspian '91:63
 Common '85:36, '91:63-64
 Forster's '85:24, '91:64, '92:13
 Least '85:24
 Thrush Swainson's '91:68
 Towhee
 "Spotted" '90:98-99
 Green-tailed '92:51
 Rufous-sided '90:98-99
 Tufted Titmouse '88:41, '92:
 Turnstone, Ruddy '85:24, '91:60
 Vireo
 Bell's '90:78-80
 Red-eyed '86:23, '88:41, '91:70
 Vulture
 Black '85:49-51, '87:54, '88:32, '89:73, '90:64, '91:82, '92:49, '92:51
 Turkey '85:20, '85:49, '86:39, '87:54, '88:32, '89:73, '90:64, '90:76, '91:82, '92:49, '92:51, '92:51
 Warbler
 Blackpoll '90:98, '91:68,70
 Black-throated Blue '91:68,70
 Black-throated Gray '87:41-42
 Black-throated Green '87:42
 Cape May '90:98
 Cerulean '87:41
 Connecticut '91:70

Hooded '91:70
 Kentucky '91:70
 Orange-crowned '89:27
 Palm '88:21
 Pine '91:70
 Prairie '88:42, '92:13
 Swainson's '91:70
 Yellow '91:70
 Water Pipit '91:65
 Whimbrel '90:28-29
 Wigeon, American '85:26
 Willet '90:29, '91:34,44, '91:60
 Woodcock, American '85:24

Woodpecker
 Downy '88:41
 Red-bellied '88:41
 Red-headed '88:21
 Wren
 Bewick's '88:21
 Carolina '88:21
 House '89:74, '92:63-64
 Marsh '85:26
 Sedge '88:21, '90:79, '91:65
 Wrentit '86:76
 Yellow-breasted Chat '88:41
 Yellowlegs, Lesser '88:23, '91:44
 Yellowlegs, Greater '88:40, '91:44

LOCALITIES

Adair County '89:44, '91:67
 Axe Lake Swamp '89:77-78
 Ballard County '86:30, '86:46,47,
 '87:53,54, '88:31, '89:44, '89:77, '90:28-
 29
 Ballard County Wildlife Management
 Area '87:66, '91:23, '92:49
 Ballard Waterfowl Area '90:63, '91:81
 Barlow Bottoms '85:48, '86:47, '87:54,
 '88:31, '89:73, '90:63
 Barren County '87:28
 Barren River Reservoir '91:44
 Bath County '89:39
 Beargrass Creek '91:22
 Big Pond Sanctuary '88:51, '89:24,
 '90:45,46
 Black Mountain '87:29, '89:77, '91:86
 Bowling Cave '89:27
 Bluegrass Region '89:55,56
 Boone County '88:23, '89:76, '91:86
 Boone County Cliffs Nature Preserve
 '87:67
 Bourbon County '88:72
 Breathitt County '88:39, '88:54-60,
 '89:39,44
 Buck Creek '89:28
 Bullitt County '89:44
 Burlington '88:23, '91:86
 Calloway County '91:23, '92:13
 Campbellsville '91:67
 Carroll County '89:39
 Carrs Fork Lake '88:74
 Carter Caves State Resort Park '91:24
 Cave Creek '89:28
 Cave Run Lake '90:63
 Central Kentucky Wildlife Management
 Area '87:27-35

Choateville '92:63
 Clark County '86:76, '89:39
 Clay County '89:39
 Columbia '91:67
 Cool Springs '89:78, '90:75,76,78
 Cub Run '90:99
 Cumberland Falls State Park '87:24,
 '89:79
 Cumberland Gap National Historic Park
 '86:38
 Cumberland Plateau '85:23, '88:39,
 '88:54-60, '89:55,56, '89:74
 Cumberland Ridge '86:38
 Cumberland River '87:4
 Dale Hollow '86:46,47, '87:53,54, '88:31,
 '90:63
 Dams
 Barkley '85:35, '87:4, '89:48,49, '92:12
 Kentucky '85:35, '87:3,4, '89:48, '92:12
 Smithland '87:4, '89:48
 Daviess County '91:66-67, '91:86
 Eastern Kentucky University's State-
 land Dairy Center '85:39
 Falls of the Ohio '86:75,76,, '87:4,
 '89:48,49, '89:55,58,60, '91:36
 Falls of the Rough '85:33
 Fayette County '87:41, '89:39,44, '89:55,
 '92:13
 Fort Knox '86:22, '92:13
 Frankfort '92:63
 Franklin County '89:39, '92:63
 Fulton County '88:23
 Goose Island '86:75
 Graves County '89:44, '90:73

- Grayson County '87:24, '88:51, '90:99,
 '89:39,44, '90:45
 Green County '89:44
 Green River '90:75-77,78
 Guntersville Reservoir, AL '86:78, '87:55
 Hancock County '87:28,29
 Hardin County '89:39,44
 Hardy Slough '90:31
 Harlan County '87:29, '89:77
 Harrison County '89:43
 Hart County '89:39, '90:28, '90:99
 Henderson County '89:43, '89:77, '90:30,
 '90:97-98, '91:67
 Hickman County '89:44, '89:77
 Hinkston Creek '88:72
 Honker Lake '85:67, '89:96
 Hopkins County '89:39
 Horner Wildlife Sanctuary, University of
 Louisville '85:50
 Howard Mine '88:39
 Jefferson County '85:66, '89:39,43,44,
 '89:48, '89:77, '90:47, '92:12,13
 Kenlake State Park '85:33, '85:61, '86:58,
 '90:80
 Kentucky Dam Village State Park '85:61,
 '88:51, '91:47, '92:52
 Kleber Wildlife Area '85:65
 Knott County '88:74
 Lake
 Barkley '86:46, '86:76, '87:53, '88:31,
 '92:62-63
 Chaney '91:33-45, '91:86-87
 Cumberland '85:48, '86:47, '90:63, '92:51
 Green River '85:48, '86:47
 Kentucky '91:47, '92:12,13, '92:62-63
 Laurel '85:48
 McElroy '85:19, '90:29-30,31, '91:33-45,
 Nolin '90:99
 Three Springs '91:42
 Lake Cumberland State Park '85:61
 Land Between the Lakes '85:48-49,
 '85:67, '87:53,54, '88:31, '89:96, '90:63,
 '90:73, '91:23, '91:39, '91:47, '91:81,
 '92:49
 Larue County '91:67
 Lexington '87:41, '89:55-61
 Lexington Cemetery '87:41
 Littcarr Recreation Area '88:74
 Livingston County '92:12, '92:62
 Logan County '87:42
 Louisville '86:20, '87:28,29, '89:48, '91:22,
 '91:67, '92:12,13
 Lyon County '89:49, '89:96, '92:12
 Maceo '91:86
 Madison County '87:27, '88:36
 Magnolia '91:67
 Marshall County '92:12, '92:62
 Mammoth Cave National Park '85:20,
 '85:32, '85:65, '88:20-21
 Mayfield Creek '86:47, '87:54, '88:31,
 '89:73, '90:63
 McLean County '90:75
 Meade County '86:21-22, '90:98, '92:13
 Metcalf County '89:43
 Middle Creek '91:86
 Mississippi River '86:38, '86:46,47,
 '86:76, '87:53,54, '88:31, '89:48, '89:73,
 '90:63, '90:79, '91:65
 Mitchell Lake '87:66
 Muhlenberg County '90:74-80, '91:48,
 '92:51
 Munfordville '90:28
 Murphy's Pond '89:77
 Natural Bridge State Park '87:55
 Nelson County '89:39
 Obion Creek '86:47, '87:54, '88:31, '89:73,
 '90:63
 Ohio County '88:50, '89:23-24, '89:39,
 '89:75, '89:78, '90:73-80, '91:48
 Ohio River '85:48-49, '86:38, '86:46,47,
 '87:53,54, '88:31, '89:48, '89:73, '90:63,
 '90:22, '91:65, '92:12
 Oldham County '85:50, '89:39, '91:67
 Ontario, Canada '85:36
 Otter Creek Park '85:33, '86:21, '88:24,
 '90:98
 Owensboro '92:28
 Owsley County '89:39
 Paintsville Lake '87:53
 Paradise Steam Plant '90:78
 Peabody Coal Company '91:48
 Homestead Mine '90:75,77,78
 Ken Mine '90:75,78,79
 Martwick Mine '90:76,78
 Sinclair Mine '90:74,77
 20th Century Mine '90:74
 Pennyroyal '89:55, '90:79, '91:33
 Pine Mountain State Park '85:50, '91:72
 Plymouth Beach, MA '86:35
 Pryorsburg '90:73
 Pulaski County '89:28, '89:39, '92:12,
 '92:51
 Reelfoot Lake '85:48, '86:46, '87:53,
 '89:72
 Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge '88:23,
 '91:23
 Robinson Forest '88:54-60
 Rockcastle County '89:44
 Rough River Dam State Park '85:61,
 '86:23, '90:31

- Rowan County
 Cave Run Lake '85:24, '85:26
 Licking River '85:24, '85:26
 Minor E. Clark Fish Hatchery '85:23-27;
 Russellville '87:42
 Sand Island '86:76
 Shawnee Hills '90:74,76,79
 Shelby County '89:39,43
 Shippingport Island '86:75
 Six-Mile Island
 Sloughs Wildlife Management Area
 Sauerheber Unit '90:30,31
 Somerset '92:12
 Standiford Field '91:67
 Stanley '85:51
 Surrey Hills Farm '85:66, '90:47-48
 Swan Lake Wildlife Management Area '90:28
 Swan Pond Wildlife Management Area '86:30-31
 Tennessee River '87:4
 Todd County '90:76
 Towhead Island '91:22, '92:12
 Trimble County '89:43
 Two Mile Mine '88:39
 Union County '90:78
 Warren County '85:19-20, '90:29, '90:30,31, '90:47, '91:33-45, '91:86, '92:12
 Webster County '89:39
 Westmoreland '92:13
 Westport '91:67
 Western Kentucky University Farm '90:47
 White Oak Creek '92:51
 Whitley County '89:77
 Wisconsin '85:20
 Wolf Creek Dam '86:46
 Wolfe County '89:44
 Woodburn '89:55, '90:47
 Woodburn Lakes '91:33-45, '91:60-66
 Woodford County '89:39

GENERAL

- Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Kentucky '89:74-75R, '91:48
 Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Tennessee '91:71-72R
 Bald Eagle Count '85:48-59, '86:46-47, '87:53-55, '88:31-32, '89:72-73, '91:81-82, '92:49-50
 Beckham Bird Club '90:29,31, '90:48, '91:22
 Big Day Record '91:22-23
 Birds of the Nashville Area '86:22R
 Birds of the Smokies '92:26-27R
 Cavities in Trees and Snags '86:61-64
 Families of Birds '86:34-35R
 Field Guide to Hawks, A '88:22R
 Guide to the Birds at the New River Gorge Area, A '92:39R
 Hawk Migration Association of North America '86:38,39
 Jones, Howard P. '90:83
 Kentucky Bird Records Committee '92:12-14
 Kentucky Breeding Bird Atlas '85:33, '89:73, '90:74,79, '91:88
 Kentucky Ornithological Society '85:24, '88:21, '90:31, '90:83, '92:12
 Kentucky Ornithological Membership List '86:48-57, '90:64-73
 Kentucky Ornithological Society Fall Meeting '85:60, '86:71-73, '87:64-66, '88:32-34, '88:67-64, '89:92-93, '90:95-97, '91:83-85, '92:59-61
 Kentucky Ornithological Society Spring Meeting '86:32-34, '87:39-41, '89:50-52, '90:42-44, '91:45-47, '92:36-38
 Kentucky Rare Bird Alert '91:48, '92:40
 Madison Audubon Society '85:20
 Mengel, Robert M. '90:51
 Midwinter Bird Count '85:3-13, '86:9-20, '87:12-22, '88:3-14, '87:20-21, '89:12-23, '90:15-27, '91:10-22, '92:15-26
 Migration '87:27-35
 Migrations of Hawks, The '87:23-24R
 Northern Kentucky Bird Club '87:44
 On the Wing '90:27-28R
 Project Feederwatch '89:96
 Somerset Bird Club '91:51
 Starr, Faye Hensley '91:51
 Stripe Mine '90:73-80
 Treasurer's Report '85:63, '86:73-74, '87:62-63, '88:69-71, '90:93-95, '89:94-95, '92:61-62

TABLES

| | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Cumberland Gap '86:39 | Ruffed Grouse Drumming Sites '88:57,58 |
| Eagle Census '85:49, '86:47, '87:54, '88:32, '89:73, '90:63, '91:82, '92:50 | Swan Pond Wildlife Management Area '86:30, '86:31 |
| Midwinter Bird Count '85:6-9, '86:12-15, '87:16-19, '88:6-9 | Tower Mortality '91:67-71, '91:68-69, '89:16-19, '90:20-23, '91:14-17, '92:20- 23 |
| Minor E. Clark Fish Hatchery '85:25 | Tower Mortality in Henderson County '90:97 |
| Owl Pellet Analysis '89:40-42,45 | Waterfowl at Lexington Reservoirs '89:57,58,58,60 |
| Ratios of Sharp-shinned Hawks: Cooper's Hawks at Appalachian Lookouts '86:40 | |