

8-1993

Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 69, no. 3)

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The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

VOL. 69

AUGUST, 1993

NO. 3



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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, \$8.00; Contributing, \$15.00; Student, \$4.00; Life, \$100.00; Family, \$2.00 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 our staff artist, Ray Harm, for this excellent painting of a Belted Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*).

THE SPRING SEASON, 1993

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

Spring 1993 was a rather strange season, both weatherwise and birdwise. Precipitation varied from norms to less than an inch a month; temperature averaged more than two degrees below normal in March but slightly above normal in April and May. Despite the figures, the early spring seemed cool and wet, with both vegetation and bird migration delayed at least a week up until mid-April. Rain was sufficient in western Kentucky to flood the lower Ohio River bottoms, thus closing access to the best birding areas there from Ballard County south during the major part of the migration in May.

The first reported push of transients began on April 23 and continued until May 8, at which time unseasonably mid-summer hot weather basically closed down the passerine migration; even the normally later migrants were scarce thereafter. Transient thrush numbers, for example, were very low, especially Veeries and Gray-cheeked Thrushes. The peak of the warbler migration appeared to be the first few days in May. Shorebird migration was noticeable only in late May in southwestern Kentucky.

Abbreviations: Anch = Anchorage, Jefferson County; BWMA = Ballard Wildlife Management Area, Ballard County; BD = Barkley Dam, Lyon County; BCNP = Beargrass Creek Nature Preserve, Louisville, Jefferson County; BPS = Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County; Bon = Bondurant, Fulton County; BOCL = Boone Cliffs Nature Preserve, Boone County; CEL = Camp Ernst Lake, near Burlington, Boone County; CCWMA = Cane Creek Wildlife Management Area, Laurel County; CRL = Cave Run Lake, Rowan County; CL = Cooley's Lake, near Monticello, Wayne County; Dan = Danville, Boyle County; DD = Dix Dam, Mercer County; EBPP = East Bend Power Plant, Boone County; Falls = Falls of the Ohio, Louisville, Jefferson County; Glas = Glasgow, Barren County; GRL = Green River Lake, Taylor County; Hick = Hickman, Fulton County; KD = Kentucky Dam, Livingston/Marshall counties; LCWMA = Lake Cumberland Wildlife Management Area, Pulaski County; L#9 = Lake No. 9, Fulton County; LPew = Lake Pewee, Hopkins County; LBL = Land Between the Lakes, Lyon County; Leit = Leitchfield, Grayson County; Lou = Louisville, Jefferson County; Mad = Madisonville, Hopkins County; MCNP = Mammoth Cave National Park, Edmonson County; Mayf = Mayfair Basins, Louisville, Jefferson County; Mid = Middletown quarry, eastern Jefferson County; MCFH = Minor E. Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County; NBSP = Natural Bridge State Park, Powell County; OFL = Owsley Fork Lake, Madison County; PHSM = Peabody Homestead Surface Mine, Ohio County; Pet = Petersburg, Boone County; PCP = Pulaski County Park; PRP = Pumphouse Road Pond, Pulaski County; SWMA = Sauerheber Wildlife Management Area, Henderson County; Som = Somerset, Pulaski County; TP = Thurston's Pond, near Monticello, Wayne County; WRA = Waitsboro Recreational Area, Pulaski County; UKAEF = University of Kentucky Agricultural Experimental Farm, Lexington, Fayette County.

Loons through Herons — There were scattered reports of Com. Loons during the period, including seven at GRL, Mar. 10 (KC, LR); two at Silo Overlook, LBL, Apr. 3 (CP); one at LPew, Apr. 23, and 6 there on May 13 (JH); two on Wysox Lake, PHSM, May 8 (MM, BM, BMII); and one at Pet, May 8 (LM). Eleven Horned Grebes were on GRL, Mar. 10 (KC, LR); from one to seven were at DD, early Mar.-mid-April (FL, WK); two were on LPew, Mar. 29 (JH); and the largest concentration ever recorded at CRL was 26 on Mar 27, 25 on Mar 28, with eight still there on Apr. 3 (FB). Double-crested Cormorants were widespread with three observed at PCP, Apr. 16 (JE); about 12 reported from Silo Overlook, LBL, Apr. 17 (CP); more than 60 on

the Kentucky River south of I-24, Lyon Co., Apr. 17 (CP, HCh); three on the Ohio River near Henderson, Henderson Co., Apr. 24 (MM, CMS, BM); 13 at Pet, Apr. 24 (LM); two at the Falls, Jefferson Co., May 7 (PB, JB); a flock of 25 over Barren River Lake, Allen Co., 1 May (CMS *et al.*); and three on Wysox Lake, PHSM, May 8 (MM, BM, BMIII). A rare Least Bittern was at the marsh where they have occurred previously on the PHSM, May 8 (MM, BM, BMIII). Great Blue Herons were common throughout the state. There were numbers of Great Egrets near Bon, with 23 on Apr. 23, 32 on May 11, and 16 on May 17 (CP); also noted in Fulton Co. were 6 on May 9 (MM, BM, BMIII), and 30 on May 22 (PB, JB, BBC). Snowy Egrets were recorded in southwestern Fulton Co., mostly near Bon and along the levee near L#9, with 11 on Apr. 23, 9 on May 11, and 13 on May 17 (CP), also 30 on May 22 (PB, JB, BBC). Little Blue Herons were observed only in southwestern Kentucky; more than 20 were on BWMA, May 9 (MM, BM, BMIII), six white individuals were near Bon, May 11 (CP), 24 blue adults were at Yellow Dog Cutoff, Mayfield Creek, McCracken Co., May 11 (CP); and 30 were noted in Fulton Co., May 22 (PB, JB, BBC). Two Cattle Egrets were at Pet, in northern Kentucky, Apr. 21 (LM); otherwise reports were from southwestern Kentucky, with four in Hickman Co., May 9 (MM, BM, BMIII), 16 near Bon, May 11 and 21 (CP), and more than 100 in Fulton Co., May 22 (PB, JB, BBC). The earliest arrival for the Green-backed Heron was one at PRP, Apr. 8 (JE). Black-crowned Night-Herons were reported only from the two usual locations, around Louisville, and below KD and BD. An Am. Bittern appeared after a rainstorm in a suburban yard in Seneca Park, Lou, Apr. 14 (MM, CMS).

Waterfowl — Three white morph Snow Geese were noted at EBPP, Mar. 13 (LM). Large numbers of Green-winged Teal were at SWMA, Mar. 27, with at least 225 birds present (KC, BBC). Am. Wigeons were reported widely; ten were at OFL, 16 Mar. (AR, TR); 44 were at DD, Mar. 20 (FL, WK); four were seen on Lentz's Pond, Jefferson Co., Mar. 23 (BM); one was west of Mad, Mar. 29 (JH); and one was at SWMA, Apr. 24 (MM, CMS, BM). Blue-winged Teal were scattered through most of central and western Kentucky, with reports of singles as far east as OFL 24 Mar. (AR, TR), and Gainesborough Farm, Woodford Co., May 21 (KP), and two at PRP, Mar. 10 (JE). Six N. Shovelers were at CL, Mar. 6 (JE), and two at TP, Mar. 6 (JE); five were at LPew, Mar. 8 (JH); six were seen on GRL, Mar. 10 (KC, LR); 12 were noted on Lentz's Pond, Jefferson Co., Mar. 15 (JE), and six there on Mar. 23 (BM); 150 were on SWMA, Mar. 27 (KC, BBC); and 22 were at BD, May 8 (MM, BM, BMIII). A pair of N. Pintails were observed on a pond off Schuler Lane, Oldham Co., May 23 (BM, BMIII). Four Canvasbacks were present at CL, Mar. 6, and two the same day at TP (JE). There were 23 Redheads on CRL, Mar. 5 (FB), two near Som, Mar. 3 (JE), 15 at WRA, Mar. 6 (JE), an 12 at CL, Mar. 6 (JE); the species was noted on the Mid, with more than 25 there on Mar. 18 and seven on Mar. 23 (BM). Ring-necked Ducks were widespread, with 20 near Som, Mar. 3 (JE), more than 25 at CL, Mar. 6 (JE), five at LPew, Mar. 8 (JH), a maximum of 50 at EBPP, Mar. 13 (LM), a maximum of at least 75 on the Mid, Mar. 18 and 23 (BM), 20 on OFL, Mar. 24 (AR, TR), 92 west of Mad, Mar. 24 (JH), 25 at DD, Mar. 25 (FL, WK), and 120 at SWMA, Mar. 27 (KC, BBC). A maximum of 38 Lesser Scaup were on CEL, Mar. 10 (LM); a maximum of at least 50 were on the Mid, Mar. 18 (BM); 27 were along Bear Cemetery Road, Mad, Mar. 29 (JH); and one was near the levee road, southwestern Fulton Co., May 22 (PB, JB, BBC). The only reports of Com. Goldeneyes were of one female at TP, Mar. 6 (JE), and four birds on GRL, Mar. 10 (KC, LR). Buffleheads were scattered throughout the season, with four near Som, Mar. 3 (JE), 16 on GRL, Mar. 10 (KC, LR), there on the Mid, Mar. 18 (BM), four at PCP, Mar. 22 (JE), four at SWMA, Mar. 27 (KC, BBC), three along Bear Cemetery Road, Mad, Mar. 29 (JH); and two on LPew, Apr. 7 (JH). A maximum of 19 Hooded Mergansers was noted at Pet, Mar. 21 (LM); five were at BD, May 8 (MM, BM, BMIII) two at KD, May 8 (MM, BM, BMIII), six

along the levee road in southwestern Fulton Co., May 22 (PB, JB, BBC), and one in the BWMA, May 23 (LM). A count of 76 Red-breasted Mergansers at GRL, Mar. 10 (KC, LR), was the largest number of the species reported; a maximum of 40 was present at Pet, Mar. 28 (LM). One Ruddy duck was at SWMA, Mar. 27 (KC, BBC); nine were at PCP, Apr. 12 (JE); and 16 were on LPew, Apr. 7 (JH), and 15 there on Apr. 12 (JH).

Birds of Prey — The earliest Ospreys were singles at MCFH, Apr. 10 (FB), at PCP, Apr. 10 (JE), and in Barren Co., Apr. 13 (MS); at Honker Lake in LBL, the species nested (CP, PB, JB). A Mississippi Kite was seen on the Ballard Co. Wildlife Management Area, May 9 (MM, BM, BMIII); one in each of Fulton, Carlisle and Ballard cos. was seen, May 22 (CP); 25 were observed in Fulton Co. May 22 (PB, JB, BBC); and 6-10 were noted at Ballard Wildlife Management Area, May 23 (LM). Bald Eagles were abundant in western Kentucky, with nests in LBL, on the BWMA, at SWMA, and along the levee near L#9, Fulton Co. (KC, BBC, CP); at CRL and MCFH, one or two were noted between Apr. 3 and Apr. 18 (FB). N. Harriers were noted as follows: two at Short Creek, Grayson Co., Mar. 16 (KC); one at SWMA, Mar. 27 (KC, BBC); one at Middle Creek, Boone Co., Apr. 3, and May 15 (LM); 20-25 at PHSM, Apr. 26 (KC, HC), with three remaining there at least until May 24 (LM). The earliest Broad-winged Hawk was observed at PCP, Apr. 10 (JE). A Merlin was seen at the Lexington Cemetery, Fayette Co., 1, May 9 (AR, TR).

Grouse through Terns — A Ruffed Grouse was observed in the CCWMA, May 1 (JE). Three Wild Turkeys were noted in the CCWMA, May 14, and one there May 21 (JE); one was heard at LCWMA, May 12 (JE). Six Soras were at SWMA, Apr. 24 (MM, CMS, BM). Migrating Sandhill Cranes were observed just east of Elizabethtown, Hardin Co., with 20, Mar. 6 (AW), just south of Leit, Mar. 6 (AW), at Lou, with 30 on Mar. 7 (RM, BM, MM), in eastern Jefferson Co. with 25-30, Mar. 11 (RM, *vide* BM), 60 over the Lincoln Parkway, Green Co., Mar. 16 (KC, LR), eight west of Bardstown, Nelson Co., Mar. 25 (AW), and four over Science Hill, Pulaski Co., Apr. 6 (JE). Am. Coots were widely reported, with a maximum of 116 on LPew, Apr. 7 (JH). Six Semipalmated Plovers were in Fulton Co., May 9 (MM, BM, BMIII), and 15 were noted there, May 22 (PB, JB, BBC). Four Am. Avocets were discovered on the Mid, Apr. 14 (MM, BM, CMS). Eight Greater Yellowlegs were at SWMA, Mar. 27 (KC, BBC), and 15 were there, Apr. 24 (MM, CMS, BM); two were seen at Hays Kennedy Park, Jefferson Co., Apr. 23 (BM, MM, CMS); at least 15 were in Fulton Co., May 9 (MM, BM, BMIII); and about 200 were present near Bon, May 11 (CP). One Lesser Yellowlegs was on SWMA, Mar. 27 (KC, BBC), and more than 20 were there, Apr. 24 (MM, CMS, BM); five were in Hays Kennedy Park, Jefferson Co., Apr. 23 (BM, MM, CMS); more than 50 were in Fulton Co., May 9 (MM, BM, BMIII); and at least 200 were present near Bon, May 11 (CP). Solitary Sandpipers were widespread, with the largest number reported of 16 near Bon, May 11 (CP). Spotted Sandpipers were scattered throughout western and central Kentucky, with the most easterly record of one at NBSP, Apr. 30 (PB, JB); the earliest report was one at PCP, Apr. 12 (JE). Four *Whimbrel* were southwest of Hickman, Fulton Co, May 22 (PB, JB, BBC), constituting the fourth Kentucky record. The only White-rumped Sandpipers were 12 in Fulton Co., May 22 (PB, JB, BBC). Pectoral Sandpipers were fairly widespread, with a maximum of about 50 near Bon, May 11 (CP). Many "peeps," mostly Semipalmated and Least Sandpipers, were near Bon, with 30 noted on May 11 (CP). There was but one report of Stilt Sandpipers, 20-25 birds near Bon, May 11 (CP). Am. Woodcocks were noted with one at Cave City, Barren Co., Mar. 1 (MS), 3-4 heard near BPS, Mar. 8 (KC, HC), one heard at Science Hill, Pulaski Co., Mar. 27 (JE), several noted in southern Marion Co., Apr. 21-27 (KP), four seen near KD,

May 8 (MM, BMIII), and three observed at LCWMA, May 12 (JE). Adult Laughing Gulls were at KD, May 8 (MM, BM, BMIII), and at the Falls, May 23 (BM, BMIII). A single Franklin's Gull was flying over the Mississippi River, Fulton Co., May 22 (PB, JB, BBC). A flock of more than 25 Bonaparte's Gulls were observed at Lees Ford Dock on Lake Cumberland, Pulaski Co., Mar. 3 (JE); nine were over GRL, Mar. 10 (KC, LR); and four were in LBL, Apr. 10 (PB, JB). A large gathering of more than 600 Ring-billed Gulls was noted at Lees Ford Dock on Lake Cumberland, Mar. 9 (JE). There were one to three Herring Gulls at MCFH, Mar. 5-Apr. 16 (FB). Single Caspian Terns were at DD, Apr. 29 (FL, WK), and at BD, May 24 (LM). Eight Com. Terns were noted at MCFH, Apr. 9 (FB). Two Least Terns were at Hick, May 9 (MM, BM, BMIII); 30 were noted in Fulton Co., May 22 (PB, JB, BBC); and three were on Mitchell Lake, BWMA, May 23 (LM).

Cuckoos through Swallows — Single Black-billed Cuckoos were at Barren River Lake State Park, Barren Co., May 2 (LM, CMS, VK, WK, KOS), at Dan, May 3 and 4 (FL), and at Leit, May 4 (AW); two were noted at BPS, May 8 (KC). The earliest Com. Nighthawks reported were two at Som, Apr. 29 (JE), and singles at BPS, Apr. 29 (KC) and at Lou, Apr. 30 (BM). The first Whip-poor-will was heard at Mad, Apr. 10 (BW). The earliest Chuck-will's-widow report was of two heard at BPS, Apr. 6 (KC). A single Chimney Swift appeared over Anchorage, Jefferson Co, Mar. 31 (MM). The earliest Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were two noted at BPS, Apr. 13 (KC, HC). Red-headed Woodpeckers were widespread and especially common in southwestern Kentucky; one noted along route 499 in Blue Grass Army Depot, Madison Co., May 5 (AR, TR), was from a county where they are uncommon. The latest Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was one bird in MCNP, Apr. 23 (PB, JB, DC). Two Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were at BCNP, May 29 (CMS). There were a number of Willow Flycatcher reports: two at Pet, May 8 (LM); one at Bellview, Boone Co., May 8 (LM); one at Elk Creek bridge, Hopkins Co., May 17 (JH); calling at the usual location near Perryville, Boyle Co., May 22 (FL, WK); and a pair calling at Mayf, May 23 (BM, BMIII). The earliest E. Phoebe report was of one at MCNP, Mar. 21 (PB, JB). The first Great Crested Flycatcher record is of two at BPS, Apr. 7 (KC). A single E. Kingbird was noted at Anch, Apr. 21 (MM). The earliest Purple Martins were noted Mar. 23, at Leit (AW). Single early Tree Swallows were seen at TP, Mar. 6 (JE), and along the Lincoln Parkway, Green Co., Mar. 10 (KC, LR); there were approximately 200 at MCFH, Mar. 27, which number dwindled to 150 by Apr. 18, but nesting in bluebird boxes was also evident this year. Five N. Rough-winged Swallows appeared at PRP, Mar. 31 (JE). A Bank Swallow was noted at SWMA, Apr. 24 (BM). The first records of Barn Swallow were singles near the Pulaski, Wayne Co. line, Mar. 27 (JE), and from Leit, Mar. 28 (AW). At least 50 Cliff Swallows appeared Apr. 16 at MCFH, with nesting again on dam tower of CRL (FB); numbers of this species were at the Rough River Lake bridges, Grayson/Breckinridge cos., with 60 + observed on May 29 (KC).

Crows through Vireos — At least six Fish Crows were on BWMA, May 9 (MM, BM, BMIII). There was but one report of Red-breasted Nuthatch, a single bird at Sportsman's Lake, Hodgenville, Larue Co., Mar. 10 (KC, LR). The latest Brown Creeper was on BCNP, Apr. 27 (PB, JB). One Sedge Wren was seen at Barren River Lake, Barren Co., 1 May (CMS *et al.*). A single Winter Wren was noted at MCNP, Mar. 21 (PB, JB); three were noted at PCP, Apr. 17 (JE). One House Wren appeared on Apr. 12 at Cave City, Barren Co. (MS). The earliest Blue-gray Gnatcatchers were one at Glas, Apr. 10 (RS), and two at BPS, Apr. 11 (KC). The latest report of Ruby-crowned Kinglet was one bird at Mad, May 4 (JH). Veeries were observed at BOCL, on May 8 and May 25 (LM). The earliest Gray-cheeked Thrushes were singles at Lou, Apr. 23 (BM, MM), and at SWMA, Apr. 24 (MM, CMS, BM). The first Swainson's Thrush was noted at Lou, Apr. 23 (MM, CMS, BM). Late Hermit Thrushes were

recorded on Apr. 23 with two at Lou (MM, CMS, BM), one in northeastern Jefferson Co. (KC, LR), and two at the BCNP (PB, JB). The first Wood Thrush appeared at the BCNP, Apr. 21 (PB, JB). The earliest Gray Catbird was one in eastern Jefferson Co., Mar. 25 (AS). Two Brown Trashers were noted at BPS, Mar. 18 (KC, HC). Single early White-eyed Vireos were at LPew, Apr. 12 (JH), and at BPS, Apr. 15 (KC). Two Yellow-throated Vireos were noted at PCP, Apr. 14 (JE). Single Solitary Vireos were seen at Anch, Apr. 20 and 21 (MM, BM), at Leit, Apr. 30 (AW), and in Ohio Co., May 8 (MM, BM, BMIII). The earliest Warbling Vireos were one at LPew, Apr. 23 (JH), and two at SWMA, Apr. 24 (MM, BM, CMS). One Philadelphia Vireo was present at Anch, Apr. 28 (MM, BM), and another was in Ohio Co., May 8 (MM, BM, BMIII). The first Red-eyed Vireo was at Glas, Apr. 23 (RS).

Warblers — The first Blue-winged Warbler was reported from Glas, Apr. 23 (RS). The earliest Golden-winged Warblers were two at MCNP, Apr. 24 (PB, JB, DC). A single male hybrid *Lawrence's Warbler* was photographed in Anch, May 7 (MM), the fifth Kentucky record. The earliest reported Tennessee Warblers were tower kills picked up at Henderson, Henderson Co., Apr. 24 (MM, BM, CMS). One Orange-crowned Warbler was in northeastern Jefferson Co., Apr. 23 (KC, LR). Two Nashville Warblers were noted on BCNP, Apr. 21 (PB, JB, DC). The first N. Parulas were seen at LBL, Apr. 10 (PB, JB), and MCNP, Apr. 11 (PB, JB). Yellow Warbler arrivals included single birds at LPew, Apr. 23 (JH), Glas, Apr. 23 (RS), and MCNP, Apr. 24 (PB, JB, DC), and three birds at SWMA, Apr. 24 (MM, BM, CMS). A Magnolia Warbler was observed at Glas, Apr. 28 (RS). The earliest Cape May Warblers were seen at Anch, Apr. 28 (MM, BM) and at PCP the same day (JE); in southern Madison Co., the species was recorded on many dates and was the most common warbler in 1993 in this country (AR, TR). A Black-throated Blue Warbler was at NBSP, Apr. 30 (PB, JB); a male was seen and heard at BCNP, May 5 (CMS); a male was in CCWMA, May 7 (JE); and two were recorded at BOCL, May 8 (LM). Two early Black-throated Green Warblers were observed at Anch, Apr. 14 (MM, BM), and two more in northeastern Jefferson Co., Apr. 18 (KC, LR). Three Blackburnian Warblers were first noted at MCNP, Apr. 24 (PB, JB, DC). A Yellow-throated Warbler appeared at LBL, Apr. 10 (PB, JB). A Pine Warbler was present at BPS, Mar. 8-17 (KC, HC); two were at Sportsman's Lake, Hodgenville, Larue Co., Mar. 10 (KC, LR), and one was heard at Mad, Mar. 18 (JH). A male Prairie Warbler was at Anch, Apr. 20 (MM), two were on BCNP, Apr. 21 (PB, JB), singing males were in southern Marion Co., Apr. 21 (KP), and three were in northeastern Jefferson Co., Apr. 23 (KC, LR). Two Palm Warblers were seen in northeastern Jefferson Co., Apr. 18 (KC, LR), and two more at SWMA, Apr. 24 (MM, BM, CMS). Earliest reports of Bay-breasted Warblers were two birds at NBSP, Apr. 30 (PB, JB), and of Blackpoll Warbler, a single bird at Brown Park, Jefferson Co., Apr. 29 (PB, JB). A male Cerulean Warbler was present at CCWMA, Apr. 14 (JE). The first report of Black-and-white Warbler was of one at MCNP, Apr. 11 (PB, JB). One Am. Redstart arrived on BCNP, Apr. 21 (PB, JB). Prothonotary Warblers were first noted at LBL, with at least seven birds present Apr. 10 (PB, JB); a male was seen the same day in PCP (JE). Single Worm-eating Warblers were seen at BCNP, Apr. 22 (PB, JB), and in northeastern Jefferson Co., Apr. 23 (KC, LR). One N. Waterthrush was recorded on BCNP, Apr. 23 (PB, JB), and another at SWMA, Apr. 24 (MM, BM, CMS). There was one Louisiana Waterthrush noted at MCNP, Mar. 29 (MS). The first Kentucky Warbler was seen at Glas, Apr. 24 (RS). Single Mourning Warblers were recorded at Mad, May 15 (JH), and at Anch, May 18 (BM). Three Com. Yellowthroats were reported at BPS, Apr. 18 (KC, HC). Single Hooded Warblers first appeared at BCNP, Apr. 19 (PB, JB), and at Anch, Apr. 20 (MM). A Canada Warbler was at BOCL, May 8 (LM), two at Million Park,

Richmond, Madison Co., May 11 (AR, TR), three in northeastern Jefferson Co., May 21 (JA), and one singing at Fort Knox, Hardin Co., May 20 (CMS). A single Wilson's Warbler was observed in northeastern Jefferson Co., May 7 (KC, JA).

Tanagers through Finches — Two Summer Tanagers were first noted at BPS, Apr. 15 (KC). Two Scarlet Tanagers in northeastern Jefferson Co., Apr. 18 (KC, LR), were the earliest. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks seemed rather late in arriving, with the first recorded in northeastern Jefferson Co., Apr. 23 (KC, LR). Three Blue Grosbeaks were at SWMA, Apr. 24 (MM, BM, CMS); they were recorded fairly far east in Kentucky with three at UKAEF, May 1 (WD), two at OFL, May 3 (AR, TR), and five at surface strip mines near Ano, Pulaski Co., May 22 (JE); and singles were observed in northern Kentucky in Boone Co. at East Bend Power Plant, May 7 (LM), and at Petersburg, May 8 (LM). The earliest Indigo Bunting was a male noted at Mad, Apr. 15 (JH). By early May, Dickcissels were widespread in western Kentucky; four were noted in eastern Jefferson Co., May 8 (PB, JB, FM, JM), and three to six were observed on surface strip mines near Ano, Pulaski Co., May 14-22 (JE). Numbers of Field Sparrows seemed to be generally up this spring. A single Lark Sparrow was seen at SWMA, Apr. 24 (MM, BM, CMS). A Grasshopper Sparrow was noted at the Greater Cincinnati Airport, Boone Co., May 7 (LM); by May 8, the species was common at the PHSM (MM, BM, BMIII). Three Henslow's Sparrows were observed at the usual location at Hopewell Church, PHSM, May 8 (MM, BM, BMIII). Two Fox Sparrows were noted at BPS, Mar. 1 (KC, HC); the species was present at feeders in Mad, Mar. 22-Apr. 6 (JH). Single Lincoln's Sparrows were recorded at LBL, Apr. 10 (PB, JB), at Middle Creek, Boone Co., May 8 (LM), and on surface strip mines near Ano, Pulaski Co., May 14 (JE). White-crowned Sparrows were last noted at Leit, May 20 (AW). White-throated Sparrows were last recorded at Mad, May 12 (JH). A single late Dark-eyed Junco was at a feeder in Anch, May 12-15 (MM, BM). Two Boblinks appeared near Cornishville, Mercer County, May 2 (KP); five were seen on surface strip mines near Ano, Pulaski Co., May 14 (JE). One male Brewer's Blackbird was on the Morehead State University campus, Rowan Co., Apr. 26 (FB). Single Orchard Orioles were first noted at Glas, Apr. 23 (RS), and at SWMA, Apr. 24 (MM, BM, CMS). One N. (Baltimore) Oriole was first recorded at SWMA, Apr. 24 (BM, MM, CMS). A Pine Siskin was observed with a flock of Am. Goldfinches at PCP, Apr. 21 (JE). A flock of 24 Purple Finches was at LBL, Apr. 10 (PB, JB); one female appeared at a feeder in Anch, Apr. 22 (MM); and the latest at BPS, was May 3 (KC).

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Kentucky 1993 Midwinter Bald Eagle Survey

JIM DURELL AND DAVID YANCY

This was the fifteenth midwinter bald eagle census for Kentucky, beginning in 1979. In 1989, the national effort was narrowed to include only a few key areas. Three key concentrations were selected in Kentucky: Ballard County Wildlife Area, Land Between the Lakes (LBL) and Dale Hollow. Kentucky chose to continue the census on all established routes to obtain an estimate of the state population.

Target dates for 1993 were January 8 and 9, with alternate dates between January 1 and 15. Weather was unusually warm and visibility was excellent, as was the case last year. There was virtually no ice. This warm weather did not seem to discourage the southern migration of eagles.

Final tabulation indicated 261 Bald Eagles, of which 185 (71%) were adults. There were 72 immatures (28%) and four were not identified as to age.

Two adult and three immature Golden Eagles were counted at Bernheim Forest in Bullitt County, and two adults were seen on Lake Cumberland. These data are presented by route in Table 1.

Seventeen parties reported 188 other raptors. Eight-year averages are listed in parenthesis: Black Vulture 66 (13), Turkey Vulture 12 (10), Osprey 0 (0.38), Northern Harrier 1 (6), Sharp-shinned Hawk 2 (2), Coopers Hawk 3 (2.0), Red-shouldered Hawk 3 (3), Red-tailed Hawk 55 (81), Rough-legged Hawk 0 (2), American Kestrel 2 (90), Merlin 0 (0.13), Peregrine Falcon 1 (.38) and unidentified 3 (7).

Acknowledgements: This census was conducted by 130 participants in 81 parties. They represented the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, Kentucky Ornithological Society, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Tennessee Valley Authority (Land Between the Lakes), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Bluegrass Ordinance Depot, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Bernheim Forest, Kentucky Department of Parks and the National Audubon Society.

TABLE I - Kentucky Bald Eagle Census, January 1-15, 1993,
with some earlier high counts.

ROUTE	1993			1992	Earlier records	
	Ad.	Imm.	Total		High	Year
Land Between the Lakes	94	46	140	96	112	1990
Reelfoot Lake	1	8	9	3		
Blood River - S. Calloway					2	1990
Mississippi River	6		6	23	72	1984
Kentucky Bend	(1)					
Ohio R., up to Carrsville	14		14	42	89	1986
Ballard Wildlife Area	(12)			(21)		
Swan Lake, Ballard Co.				(4)		
Below Barkley Dam				(3)		
West Ky. Wildlife Area				(3)		
Ohio, Carrsville to Henderson	7	1	8	13	17	1989
Ohio, Henderson to Meade Co.	2	1	3	3		
Ohio, Meade to Louisville	2		2	4	5	1986
Ohio, Cincinnati to Ashland	1		1			
Bernheim Forest (1 golden)	3	1	4	0	3	1990
Nolin River Lake			1*	2	3	1990
Ohio Co.				1		
Muhlenberg Co., Green River				1		
Todd Co.	1		2*			
Lake Vega, Madison Co.	1		1	1		
Marion Co.		1?		2		
Green River Lake	4	1	6*	9	12	1986
Barren River Lake	1		1	0	3	1989
Dale Hollow, Ky portion	24	4	29*	7	38	1989
Cumberland River, below Burks				1		
Cumberland River, above Burks	5	2	8*	1	8	1986
Lake Cumberland	11	3	14	9	26	1990
Laurel Lake	3	1	4	13	13	1992
Grayson Lake	2	1	3	1	1	1989
Martin's Fork Lake	1		1	0	3	1988
Dewey Lake			0	0	1	1990
Cave Run Lake	2	1	3	5	10	1989
Total Bald Eagles	185	72	261*	239		
Golden Eagles	4	3	7			
Cooperators			130	192		
Census parties			81	97		

*Includes bald eagles, age unknown.

7 Golden Eagles: 2 adults at Lake Cumberland
2 adults at Bernheim Forest.
3 immatures at Bernheim Forest.

Other areas where seachers found no eagles: Kentucky River, Guist Creek Lake, Taylorsville Lake, Rough River Lake, Mammoth Cave, Lake Beshear, lower Green River, Lake Vega and Herrington, Wood Creek, Linnville, Buckhorn, Carr Fork, Fishtrap, Dewey, Yatesville and Paintsville Lakes.

NEWS AND VIEWS

Reminder of the Kentucky Rare Bird Alert Hotline

Remember, the Kentucky Rare Bird Alert hotline is in service at (502) 894-9538. Mike Stinson updates the tapes with your reports of unusual bird sightings from around the state. Help support this service with your reports.

K.O.S. Fall Meeting

The Kentucky Ornithological Society will hold its fall meeting at Cumberland Falls State Resort Park during September 24 through 26. If you would like to make a presentation at the Friday evening meeting, please contact Fred Busroe, Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, Morehead State University, Morehead, Kentucky 40351.

Peabody Wildlife Management Area Established

As of 1 July 1993, the Peabody Coal Company formalized a lease agreement with the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources to oversee management of approximately 70,000 acres of land in Ohio and Muhlenberg counties. Most of the areas that K.O.S. members have visited in the past few years to view wintering raptors are included within the newly designated Peabody Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Members should be aware that as part of this lease agreement, an access permit is now required of anyone using the area, including birders. If you drive through the area and bird from the country roads you do not need a permit, but if you use any of the non-public roads and/or walk around, you should have a permit. A Peabody WMA permit costs \$10.00, and is good through February 1995. Permits will then be renewed annually on March 1st of each year.

Peabody WMA permits are available at a number of sources. You can mail in payment to: Peabody Permit, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, #1 Game Farm Road, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, or call (502) 564-4224. You must sign a waiver of liability as part of this process, so it may take a couple of weeks to acquire a permit through the mail. It is much easier to purchase a permit at one of several outlets local to the Peabody WMA. The Minit Mart just north of the Western Kentucky Parkway at the Beaver Dam exit (#76 at U.S. 231) would be convenient to most K.O.S. members. You can pay for the permit, sign the release, and acquire a map to the WMA in just a few minutes. Other locations where permits may be obtained include, Walmart and Minit Mart in Central City and the Walmart between Beaver Dam and Hartford.

K.O.S. members are urged to cooperate by acquiring a permit. The Peabody WMA is sure to be heavily used by hunters and fishermen, and it is hoped that K.O.S. members can show the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources that many birders are interested in the area, as well. Questions concerning the Peabody WMA can be addressed to Jeff Kays of the Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources at (502) 564-4224.

K.O.S. Field Trips

— Saturday, 16 October 1993. A trip is planned to observe shorebirds, ducks, sparrows and possibly a Sora at the Sloughs Wildlife Management Area, Henderson,

Kentucky. Meet at McDonald's on Highway 41 in Henderson at 8:15 a.m. central time. Bring a lunch and shoes suitable for a walk through the marsh. The leader will be Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (502) 426-8459.

— Saturday and Sunday, 6 and 7 November 1993. Organized by Beckham Bird Club and led by Ken Brock, a trip to the shore of Lake Michigan and northern Indiana is planned to observe waterfowl, gulls and rarities. For more information send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Pat Bell, 306 Fairlawn Road, Louisville, Kentucky 40207. Reservations need to be made with Pat by 15 October 1993. (502) 895-7872.

— Saturday, 11 December 1993. Hawks, Short-eared Owls and other birds will be sought on the Ohio County strip mines. The group will meet at Jerry's Restaurant on the Western Kentucky Parkway (near the Beaver Dam exit) at 8:00 a.m. central standard time. Bring a sack lunch - some may wish to stay until early evening. Joyce Fitzgerald will accompany the group led by Kathryn Clay. (502) 895-3346.