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The Kentucky Warbler

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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 White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotrichia albicollis*).

THE WINTER SEASON, 1993-94

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

Weather — *December*: weather was rather mild for the most part, although the latter part of the month, more snow fell, particularly on December 28 with four inches. *January* was a different story. Kentuckians woke up on January 17 to a heavy blanket of snow all across the state. It was the deepest snowfall — 15.9 inches — ever in Louisville, and one of the coldest records — 22 degrees below zero — on January 19 and -25° at Morehead. *February* brought a severe ice storm, Thursday night, February 10, which was probably more devastating than the heavy snowfall. Trees, telephone poles, etc. encased in ice broke, bringing down power lines and knocking out electricity.

The temperature averaged 36.5 degrees in December, 26.8 in January, and 38 degrees in February, while precipitation averaged below normal in December and February, but above normal in January.

Abbreviations — BH = Bailey Hollow, Calloway County; BCNP = Beargrass Creek Nature Preserve; BBC = Beckham Bird Club field trip; BPS = Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County; CRL = Cave Run Lake, Rowan County; CBC = Christmas Bird Count; FL = Freeman Lake, Elizabethtown, Hardin County; GRL = Green River Lake, Taylor County; LBL = Land Between the Lakes; HWMA = Homestead Wildlife Management Area, Ohio County; LPew = Lake Pewee, Hopkins County; Lin = Lake Linville, Rockcastle County; Lou = Louisville, Jefferson County; Mad = Madisonville, Hopkins County; Mam = Mammoth Cave National Park, Edmonson County; MECH = Minor E. Clark Hatchery; OFL = Owsley Fork Lake, Madison County; PHSM = Peabody Homestead Surface Mine, Ohio County; seLog = southeastern Logan County; swLog = southwestern Logan County; Chaney and McElroy Lakes are the transient lakes south of Bowling Green, Warren County.

RED-THROATED LOON — 2, GRL, Jan. 1 (JE1).

COM. LOON — 1, Island Lake, HWMA, Dec. 11 (BBC); 4, OFL, Dec. 17, 2 there Jan. 2 (AR, TR); 8, GRL, Jan. 9 (JE1); and 5, CRL, Jan. 9 (FB).

PIED-BILLED GREBE — low numbers this winter; 1, Island Lake, HWMA, Dec. 11 (BBC); 2, OFL, Dec. 17, 1 there, Jan. 2 (AR, TR); 6, Trigg and Lyon cos., Feb. 28 (CP); and 8, LPew (JH).

HORNED GREBE — 6, GRL, Jan. 9 (AR, TR); 1, Lin, Feb. 6 (AR, TR); 2, FL, Feb. 13 (JB, PB); 1, Morehead City Park, Rowan Co., Feb. 16 and 18 (FB); 2, OFL, Feb. 16, 3 there, Feb. 26 (AR, TR); 15+, Green River State Park, Feb. 27 (JE1); 4, Silo Overlook, Lyon Co.; and 2 at BH, Feb. 28 (CP).

RED-NECKED GREBE — 2, FL, Feb. 13 (JB, PB, JE1); 3, OFL, Feb. 15, and 4 there, Feb. 16 (AR, TR); 1, (winter plumage), Morehead City Park, Feb. 16 (FB); 2, OFL, Feb. 26, and 1, GRL, Feb. 27 (JE1); these birds are extremely rare transients and winter visitors and as yet have not been approved by the Kentucky Bird Records Committee, but we believe they will pass as they were seen by competent observers.

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT — normally, we had many records of this species, but only 12 birds were reported at Silo Overlook, LBL, Trigg Co., Feb. 28 (CP), with 305 reported on the LBL CBC, Dec. 18.

GREAT BLUE HERON — not numerous this winter in January and February, but was present on 22 of the 23 CBCs with as many as 155 on the LBL CBC; regular throughout the period in Boone County, (LMc); 1, Mosley's Pond, swLog, Jan. 30 (MB); 9, Lentz's Pond, Jefferson Co., Feb. 11 (FM); 25+, LBL, Feb. 20 (MB); approximately 15 per visit during the period, MECH (FB); singles, LPew, Dec. 9, 16, 27, and 2 there, Jan. 6 (JH).

GREAT EGRET — 1, Kenlake State Park, Marshall Co., Jan. 13, and was observed a week earlier by others (CP).

GREEN-BACKED HERON — 1 immature, MECH, Dec. 20 (FB).

MUTE SWAN — 5, FL, Feb. 13 (JB, PB); also observed on the Ohio River in western Boone County, Feb. 6, and 8, near Craig's Creek, Gallatin Co., Feb. 21 (LMc).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE — 7, reported by Steve White (Ornithology class) beside SR94, 3 miles east of Hickman, Fulton Co., Feb. 12 (*vide* CP); 37, vicinity of Open Pond, Fulton Co., Feb. 15 (CP); 13, Hickman Bottoms, Fulton Co., no date given (NK, JS).

SNOW GOOSE — 4, Muhlenberg Co., Dec. 11 (BBC); 106 (white phase), vicinity of Open Pond, Fulton Co., and 83 (blue phase), Feb. 15 (CP); 5, Pulaski Co., Feb. 16 (JE1), 5, Boyle Co., Feb. 25 (FL, WK); approximately 2000, Hickman Bottoms, Fulton Co., no date (NK, JS).

CANADA GOOSE — largest group reported was 2000+ at MECH and CRL, mid-Jan. (FB); 125, Mosley's Pond, swLog, Jan. 30 (MB); 227, flooded field off Three Springs Road, south of Bowling Green, Warren Co., Feb. 5 (WM); 150+, LBL, Feb. 20 (MB); 119, McElroy, Feb. 19 (WM); 800 at Goggan Pond, Boyle Co., Feb. 25 (FL, WK); 300+, Larue Co. Sportsman's Club Lake, Jan. 9 (JE1); 100-300 in Trigg and Lyon cos., and 300, vicinity Open Pond, Fulton Co., Feb. 15 (CP); 125+, near Faubush, Pulaski Co., Feb. 16 (JE1); smaller numbers at OFL (AR), Hopkins Co. (JH) and Edmonson Co. (MS).

WOOD DUCK — 4, northern Gallatin Co., Dec. 18 (LMc); 2, Wolf Pen Farm, Jefferson Co., Dec. 19 (KC); 9, eastern Jefferson Co., Jan. 2 (JB, PB); 6, Fish Pond, S. of Hickman, Fulton Co., Feb. 19 (CP, J.T. Erwin, M. Miller, S. Sanders); 7, MECH, Feb. 25 (FB); 1-9, arriving Feb. 12-28, in Boone, Fulton, Grayson, Lincoln, Adair, and Taylor cos.

GREEN-WINGED TEAL — 12, Muhlenberg Co., Dec. 11 (BBC); 14, Fulton Co., off SR94 east of Hickman (CP); 1, Pischah Bay, LBL, Feb. 20 (MB).

AM. BLACK DUCK — slightly less than 50, transient lakes, Feb. 23 (WM).

MALLARD — 2500, on various ponds south of Hickman, Fulton Co., Feb. 19 (CP); LPew, Dec. 9-Jan. 6, maximum of 118 on Dec. 16 (JH); 3, Mam, Jan. 20 and 4 there, Feb. 18 (MS); 50, McElroy, Feb. 19 (WM); and 5, Larue Co., Feb. 26 (MS).

N. PINTAIL — 14, Larue Co. Sportsman Club Lake, Jan. 9 (JE1); 25, south of Hickman, Fulton Co., Feb. 19 (CP); 6, GRL, Feb. 27 (JE1); 1, Lentz's Pond, Jefferson Co., Feb. 11 (FM); and 25-50, McElroy Lake, Feb. 23 (WM).

GADWALL — about 250, BH, Feb. 28 (CP); 5, Muhlenberg Co., Dec. 11 (BBC); 3, eastern Jefferson Co., Jan. 2 (JB, PB); 30, LBL, Feb. 20 (MB); approximately 50, McElroy, Feb. 19 (WM); and 4, CRL (Goose Pond), Feb. 25 and 27 (FB).

AM. WIGEON — 5-6, Lentz's Pond, Feb. 11, 14 and 25 (FM); 3, Lentz's Pond, Feb. 20 (JB, PB); 3, Larue Co., Feb. 26 (MS); and 28, GRL, Feb. 27 (JE1).

CANVASBACK — 105, highest count at LPew, Jan. 6 (JH); singles noted, East Bend Power Plant, Boone Co., and at Petersburg on the Ohio River, Boone Co., Jan. 1 and 22, respectively (LMc); 4, Basin, Ohio River, Lou, Jan. 16, and 8, Lentz's Pond, Lou, Feb. 20 (JB, PB); 5, Lin, and 2, OFL, Feb. 15 (AR, TR); 22, Lentz's Pond, Feb. 4, and 4 there, Feb. 11 (FM); 5, Cooley's Lake, Wayne Co., Feb. 23 (JE1).

REDHEAD — 20, OFL (JE1), and 15 there (AR, TR), Feb. 26; 18, GRL, Feb. 27 (JE1); singles, Ohio River near Towhead Island, Lou, Jan. 16 (JB, PB) at Petersburg, Boone Co., Jan. 22 (LMc), and at Lin, Feb. 3 (AR, TR); 2, Lentz's Pond, Lou, Feb. 20 (JB, PB); 8, Craven's Bay, LBL, Feb. 20 (MB); 1, CRL, Feb. 27 (FB).

RING-NECKED DUCK — 50, Muhlenberg Co., Dec. 11 (BBC); 80, Lake Reba, Madison Co., Dec. 24, but 100 there, Feb. 13 (AR, TR); 56, highest count at LPew, Dec. 27 (JH); 29, LBL (mostly Devils Elbow), Feb. 20 (MB); 28, OFL, Feb. 26 (AR, TR); 13, LBL, Trigg Co., Feb. 28 (CP); 10, Towhead Island, Lou, Jan. 16 (JB, PB); 6, Lentz's Pond, Feb. 25 (FM); 18, CRL (Goose Pond), Feb. 25 and 27 (FB).

GREATER SCAUP — 13, Ohio River, Lou, Jan. 16 (JB, PB).

LESSER SCAUP — very few this winter; 8, Lin, Feb. 8, and 15, OFL, Feb. 15 (AR, TR); 1, Ohio Co., Feb. 5 (BBC); the species appeared on only two of the 23 CBCs.

COM. GOLDENEYE — only five reports of the species; 16, Towhead Island, Lou, Jan. 16 (JB, PB); 12, LBL, Feb. 20 (MB); 4, OFL, Feb. 26 (AR, TR); 1, MECH, Feb. 26 (FB); 14, GRL, Feb. 27 (JE1).

BUFFLEHEAD — few reported this year — only on 5 of the 23 CBCs; 23, below Wolf Creek Dam, Lake Cumberland, Russell Co., Jan. 29 (JE1); 16, highest count at LPew, Jan. 6 (JH); total of 5, two locations in Lou (JB, PB); 1, Dix Dam, Boyle Co., Jan. 29 (FL, WK); 14, LBL, Feb. 20 (MB); 35, MECH, and 40 CRL, Feb. 27 (FB); 7, Lentz's Pond, Feb. 25 (FM).

HOODED MERGANSER — 2-6 in following cos.: Boone, Jefferson, Madison, and Muhlenberg, Dec. 11-Feb. 27.

COM. MERGANSER — only 3 records: 10, Towhead Island area, Lou, Jan. 16 (PB, JB); 22, Lexington Reservoir, Fayette Co., Jan. 30 (JE1); and 17, Silo Overlook, Lyon Co., Feb. 28 (CP).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER — 19, GRL, Feb. 27 (JE1); 1, Lin, Feb. 8 (AR, TR); and 330+ at LBL, with 200+ at Carmack Bay and 75+ at Silo Overlook, Feb. 20 (MB).

RUDDY DUCK — almost absent with only three records and a total of 10 birds in three cos.: Fayette, Hopkins, and Muhlenberg.

BLACK VULTURE — only sizeable flocks, 80, Ghent, Carroll Co., Dec. 18, and 56, East Bend, Boone Co., Jan. 1 (LMc); 2, Mayo Lane, Oldham Co., Dec. 26 (JB, PB); 2, 1-75 Clay's Ferry Bridge, Fayette Co., Feb. 14 (AR, TR); 15+, GRL, Feb. 27 (JE1).

TURKEY VULTURE — noted migrating as early as Feb. 6, near Florence, Boone Co., no number given (LMc), but 100+ at GRL, Feb. 27 (JE1); 15, swLog, Jan. 30 (MB); 1, Science Hill, Pulaski Co., Jan. 16 (JE1).

BALD EAGLE — 68 present on all CBCs (all in Middle Western Prairie Region), Dec. 18-Jan. 1; 1-5 adults, 3 immatures, MECH, Jan. 9-Feb. 27 and 1-2 adults, CRL, Jan. 9-30 (FB).

N. HARRIER — total of 35, strip-mine areas in Ohio and Muhlenberg cos., Dec. 11 (BBC); 19, Ohio Co., Dec. 31 (KC, HC); 2, Short Creek, Grayson Co., all season (KC); 1, along highway 110 near Falls of Rough, Grayson Co., Jan. 1 (KC); and 15, Ohio Co., Jan. 29 (JB, PB, KC); 1, swLog, Jan. 28 (MB); 18, HWMA, Feb. 5 (BBC).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK — Singles, area around Lincoln's birthplace site, Larue Co., Feb. 26 (MS), Woodland Acres Subdivision, Logan Co., Jan. 1 (MB), and swLog Co., Jan. 30 (MB); low numbers this winter, only 14 on the 23 CBCs.

COOPER'S/RED-SHOULDERED HAWK — there were but 2 reports of the former species, four of the latter (FB, KC, JB, MS, AR), totaling 3 Cooper's and 5 Red-shouldered; both species showed a decrease in numbers on this year's CBC over last year's CBCs.

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK — maximum of 5 (KC) and 8 (JB, PB), strip-mine areas, Ohio Co., Dec. 5-Feb. 5.

PEREGRINE FALCON — 1, Warsaw CBC, Gallatin Co., Dec. 18 (LMc).

PRAIRIE FALCON — 1, Ohio Co. (traditional site since 1988) , Jan. 29 (JB, PB) and Feb. 5 (BBC, KC).

MERLIN — 1, Petersburg, Boone Co., Dec. 18 (NK *et al.*), documentation enclosed, not yet accepted by KBRC.

WILD TURKEY — 1, Ohio Co., Dec. 31 (HC), and 2, Oldham Co., Dec. 26 (JB, PB), but 136 on CBCs with birds well distributed.

N. BOBWHITE — 19 all season, BPS (HC, KC); 6, Ohio Co., Dec. 31 (KC, HC), but good numbers on CBCs and well distributed.

AM. COOT — maximum 633, LPew, Dec. 9 (JH), 462 there, Jan. 6 before our severe cold, snowy weather Jan. 17 (JH), none there in Feb.; 63, LBL, Feb. 20 (MB); 5, HWMA, Feb. 5 (BBC).

SANDHILL CRANE — 1, Ohio Co., Dec. 11, perhaps a late straggler (BBC); 75-100, cornfield bordering Chaney Lake, Feb. 5 (WM); hundreds, Hart Co., beginning on Feb. 17 (SK); 87, Mam, Feb. 18 (MS); 50, Joe Creason Park, Jefferson Co., Feb. 21 (JB, PB); 35, BPS, Feb. 21 (KC); 120, over Hart Co., Feb. 25 (MS); 3, Madison Co., Feb. 26 (JE1, AR, TR); 12, over GRL, Feb. 27 (JE1).

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER — 15, (5 in breeding plumage), McElroy, Feb. 19, call notes heard (WM).

COM. SNIFE — 13, only report, Lin, Feb. 8 (AR, TR).

AM. WOODCOCK — appeared a bit late this year, 100, edge of Hundred Acre Pond, eastern edge of Hart Co., with birds flushed from wooded areas flooded by high water (SK); 3, birds "peenting" at BPS, Feb. 21 (KC).

BONAPARTE'S GULL — 1, MECH, Jan. 9 (FB); 100+, LBL (all but 2 at Energy Lake), Feb. 20 (MB).

RING-BILLED GULL — 1000+, Feb. 20, LBL (MB); 150+, GRL, Feb. 27 (JE1); and 9, LPew, Jan. 6 (JH); 200-250, MECH, Jan 18-19 (FB); only ones reported, but fewer in numbers on CBCs.

HERRING GULL — 100+, LBL, Feb. 20 (MB); 1-5 immatures, MECH, Feb. 18-27 (FB).

GREAT HORNED OWL — 2, all season around BPS (KC); 1, at nest near Harrodsburg, Mercer Co., Jan. 29 (FL, WK); 1, Hart Co., Feb. 25 (MS); 3, Prospect, Jefferson Co., Dec. 19 (FM); and 1, calling, Morehead, Rowan Co., Jan. 19 (FB).

SHORT-EARED OWL — 9, strip-mine areas, Ohio Co., Dec. 11 (BBC); 3, Ohio Co., Feb. 5 (BBC).

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER — 1, all season, BPS (KC); 1, Science Hill, Pulaski Co., Jan. 20-Feb. 28 (JE1); 1, St. Matthews, Jefferson Co., Jan. 30 (JB, PB); 2, LBL, Feb. 20 (MB); 1, Hart Co., Feb. 25 (MS).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER — 3, all season, BPS (KC); 1, Mayo Lane, Oldham Co., Dec. 26 (JB, PB); 1, swLog, Feb. 13 (MB).

E. PHOEBE — only 1, GRL, Feb. 27 (JE1); apparently the severe cold temperature of 22 degrees below zero in the Lou area and the deep snow of 15+ inches in Jan. sent the late Dec. Phoebes southward.

HORNED LARK — about 250+, three separate flocks, largest near Petersburg (140+), Boone Co., Jan. 22 (LMc); 13, Ohio Co., Feb. 5 (BBC).

FISH CROW — 1 heard, vicinity of Bondurant, Fulton Co., Feb. 19 (CP).

REDBREASTED NUTHATCH — 4, all season at BPS (KC, HC); maximum 15, Ohio Co., Dec. 11 and Feb. 5 (BBC); regular at Mad feeder with 2 on at least 28 days and three only on Jan. 17 (JH); 2, near Union, Boone Co., Jan. 1 (LMc); 1 occasionally, Danville, Boyle Co., feeder (FL); 2, Pulaski Co. Park, Dec. 1, and 1 at Kendall Recreational Area, Russell Co. (JE1), Jan. 29.

BROWN CREEPER — 2, seLog, Jan. 2 (MB); 2, Mosley's Pond, swLog, Jan. 30 (MB); singles, BCNP, Feb. 27 (JB, PB), and at Lincoln's Birthplace, Larue Co., Feb. 26 (MS).

CAROLINA WREN — 1, in deep snow at Anchorage, Jefferson Co., Jan. 21, another calling there, Jan. 23 (BM), having survived both frigid temperatures and deep snow.

WINTER WREN — only 1, Mam, Jan. 20 (MS).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET — 1, apparently survived winter weather and was found eating suet at BPS, Jan. 19 (KC, HC).

E. BLUEBIRD — dead bluebirds in 10% of bluebird boxes when cleaned, apparently killed by severe weather (*vide* SK); fewer birds seen in Madison Co. area (AR); not counted but common, LBL, Feb. 20 (MB).

HERMIT THRUSH — few reports, although 39 appeared on CBCs; 1, Mayo Lane, Oldham Co., Dec. 26 (JB, PB); 1, Pulaski Co. Park, Jan. 14 (JE1).

AM. ROBIN — good numbers during period of CBCs; normal numbers seem to be here since the harsh winter, although only one comment was sent to us and that was favorable.

VARIED THRUSH — 1, Mayo Lane, Oldham Co., Dec. 18 (JK), and on Dec. 19 (DN, KC); if passed by the KBRC, it will be the second sight record for the state; also seen by others later.

BROWN THRASHER — the species appeared on 10 CBCs for a total of 17 birds; also 1, Mad, Jan. 17 (JH); and 1, Morehead, Dec. 25, Jan. 19, and Feb. 16 (FB).

CEDAR WAXWING — numerous on CBCs, but few reports submitted; about 13, all season, at BPS (KC, HC); 12, Mayo Lane, Oldham Co., Dec. 26 (JB, PB).

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE — 2, near Berea, Madison Co., Jan. 2 (AR, TR); birds seem scarce as there were 20 less on the CBCs over last year's CBCs.

YELLOW-RUMPED (MYRTLE) WARBLER — fair numbers in early part of the winter, especially during CBC period in most parts of the state, but few noted in Jan. and Feb.; 2, seLog, Jan. 2 (MB).

PINE WARBLER — 1, Smith's Bay, LBL, Feb. 20 (MB); 1, Mad, feeding on ground, Feb. 21-25 and still present March 1 (JH).

AM. TREE SPARROW — 3, during week of harsh weather, BPS, Jan. 17-21 (KC, HC); 1, Mad feeder, Jan. 21-24 (JH); flock of 11, Bowling Green, Warren Co. feeder, Jan. 19-22 (WM), 1 remained and left Jan. 25; 11 appeared at same feeder Feb. 5, perhaps the same flock, all but one left by Feb. 7 (WM).

FOX SPARROW — uncommon winter resident, but several were present this winter: 1, Mayo Lane, Oldham Co., Dec. 26 (JB, PB); 1, BPS, Jan. 1-Feb. 28 (KC, HC); 1, Science Hill, Pulaski Co. feeder, Jan. 2-5 (JE1); 1-2 at Berea, Madison Co. feeders, Jan. 17-Feb. 3 (AR, TR); 5, Oldham Co., Jan. 16 (JB, PB); 1, at feeder in Mad, Jan. 18-Feb. 17, and 2 there, Feb. 12 and 14 (JH); and 2, BCNP, Feb. 27 (JB, PB); 2-5, Morehead feeder, Jan. 18-30 (FB).

SONG SPARROW — 5, Mosley's Pond, LBL, Jan. 30 (MB).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW — common throughout at Mad feeders, maximum 22 on Dec. 28, 36 on Jan. 14, and 24, on Feb. 9 (JH); 15+, all season, BPS (KC, HC); 20-25 Berea feeder, Madison Co. (AR, TR); and numbers greater than last winter at MECH and at Morehead (FB).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW — not as common this winter; 10+, at feeder at Science Hill, Pulaski Co., during season (JE1); 12, near Berea (no date given, AR, TR); 1, BPS, Jan. 21, remaining through the period (KC); 7-9, along Hwy 369, Ohio Co., Jan. 29 (KC, JB, PB); 15 there on Feb. 5 (BBC); and not one at our feeders all season, the first time in 30 years (AS).

DARK-EYED (SLATE-COLORED) JUNCO — scarce this year; low in Berea, Madison Co. area (AR); 10-12 all season, BPS (KC, HC); only 3-4 all season at our feeders (AS); numbers higher than last winter at CRL, MECH, and Morehead (FB).

SNOW BUNTING — 5, eastern Jefferson Co., Jan. 22 (JB, PB); 2, in flock of Horned Larks near Petersburg, Boone Co., Jan. 22 (LMc).

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD — flock of 30 males, Morehead, Feb. 28 (FB).

PURPLE FINCH — scarce this winter, 5, Woodland Acres Subdivision, Logan Co., Jan. 18 (MB); 25, Pischah Bay, LBL, Feb. 20 (MB); 6, along Ohio River in Boone Co., Feb. 12 (LMc); 8, BPS, all season (KC, HC); 8, Berea, Madison Co. feeder, Feb. 12 (AR, TR); and 1, Mad, Feb. 27 (JH).

HOUSE FINCH — continues to increase; 300+, at feeders, Science Hill, Pulaski Co., Jan. 17 (JE1); at Cave City, Barren Co., MS states "(this species) has now almost completely replaced House Sparrows."

COM. REDPOLL — a few of this species were encountered this winter: 1, at feeder west of Burlington, Boone Co., Jan. 8-9 (JC, KCa, *fide* LMc); 1, Science Hill, Pulaski Co., Jan. 18-19 (JE1); 1, two miles away from another feeder, Jan. 16, may have been the same bird (Roseanna Denton, *fide* JE1); 3, BPS, Jan. 19-21 (KC, HC).

PINE SISKIN — scarce this winter, only present on four CBCs with a total of 18 birds; only 1 report with 1 bird, Mad, Jan. 14 (JH).

EVENING GROSBEAK — not numerous this winter: first appeared with 3 birds at a Murray, Calloway Co. feeder, Dec. 5, maximum there — 42 — on Jan. 1, also 38 at LBL Nature Center, Feb. 19 (WB), and 1, Science Hill, Pulaski Co. feeder, Feb. 18 (Diane Elmore, *fide* JE1); 15-20, Morehead feeder, Dec. 24-Feb. 28 (FB).

Contributors — Beckham Bird Club field trip (BBC), Jane Bell (JB), Pat bell (PB), Mark Bennett (MB), Wally Brines (WB), Fred Busroe (FB), Joe Caminiti (JC), Kathy Caminiti (KCa), Herbert Clay (HC), Kathryn Clay (KC), Jackie Elmore (JE1), James Hancock (JH), Ned Keller (NK), Steve Kistler (SK), John Krull (JK), Fred Mansmith (FM), Lee McNeely (LMc), Wayne Mason (WM), Burt Monroe, Jr. (BM), Doxie Noonan (DN), Clell Peterson (CP), Art Ricketts (AR), Tina Ricketts (TR), Anne Stamm (AS), Jay Stenger (JS), Mitchell Sturgeon (MS).

Correction — In *Kentucky Warbler* (1993, 69: 56-57), the location of the Red-cockaded Woodpecker in Laurel County, July 22, 1993, is the Pounder Colony, not Ponder.

— 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville, KY. 40241 (Stamm) and Department of Biology, University of Louisville, KY. 40292.

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY SPRING MEETING — 29 APRIL TO 1 MAY 1994

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its 71st annual spring meeting at Rough River State Resort Park on 29 April to 1 May, 1994. President Herbert Clay opened the Friday night session by welcoming everyone to the meeting. He turned the meeting over to Vice-President Wayne Mason who presented information about developments of a survey of neotropical migrants on International Migrant Day 14 May 1994. He introduced Lee McNeely who gave a slide presentation about one of Kentucky's lesser known natural areas. Lee's program was, "The Enchanted Cliffs — Boone County Cliffs Nature Preserve." Fred Mansmith showed slides of his recent Florida birding trip, Kathryn Clay showed some whimsical computer enhanced bird slides, and Virginia and Wendell Kingsolver showed slides of an American White Pelican that visited Lake Carnico in Nicholas County. Ms. Joyce Fitzgerald, now an independent consultant to Peabody Coal Company, expressed her appreciation to KOS members for their assistance and support for work done in the reclaimed strip mine lands in Ohio and Muhlenberg counties.

Wayne Mason announced the Saturday morning field trips.

Dr. and Mrs. Clay hosted a social hour following the meeting.

The weather was rainy for the Saturday morning field trips in the area.

Dr. and Mrs. Clay entertained the entire group for lunch on Saturday at their Big Pond Sanctuary. Everyone enjoyed an excellent lunch, good fellowship and there were many birds to watch. We all express our gratitude for their generosity.

The Board of Directors met in the lodge at 3:30 p.m.

Dr. Clay presented an outstanding Saturday evening program, "Cardiology and Hummingbirds." The presentation included many of his superb photographs of the hummingbirds of North America.

In the short business meeting following the presentation, Blaine Ferrell gave information regarding the U.S. Forest Service's Baseline Counts of Neotropical Migrant Surveys in the Daniel Boone National Forest. The meeting concluded with the announcements for the Sunday morning field trips and the drawing for the door prizes provided by Mrs. Kathryn Clay.

Sunday morning weather was cloudy and cold for the field trips to Ohio County strip mines led by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Falls of Rough led by Kathryn Clay and in the lodge area led by Lee McNeely.

ATTENDANCE AT THE SPRING MEETING

BEAVER DAM: Mary S. Craven

BOWLING GREEN: Blaine Ferrell, Wayne M. Mason, Herb and Jackie Shadowen

BURLINGTON: Lee and Lynda McNeely, Kathy and Joe Caminiti

CARLISLE: Dr. Wendell Kingsolver, Mrs. Virginia Kingsolver

DANVILLE: Ginny and Neil Eklund, JoAnn and Michael Hamm

FALLS OF ROUGH: Dr. and Mrs. Herbert L. Clay Jr., Joyce L. Porter

LEXINGTON: Joy Dawson, Gerry and Jim Williams

LOUISVILLE: Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Kay and Jim Parker, Bob and Martha Pike,
Anne L. Stamm, C. Michael Stinson

McHENRY: Charlotte A. Moseley

MOREHEAD: Fred Busroe

MURRAY: Clell Peterson

OWENSBORO: John D. Humphrey

PROSPECT: Fred T. Mansmith

RICHMOND: Mr. & Mrs. A.L. Whitt, Jr.

STANLEY: Anna L. and Tom Stevenson

UTICA: Brenda and Tony Eaden

RICHMOND, INDIANA: Janet and J.D. Wickersham

BIRDS OBSERVED AT THE ANNUAL SPRING MEETING, 1993

Birds observed on Friday and Saturday on field trips at Falls of Rough State Resort Park were Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Common Merganser, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, Killdeer, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Caspian Tern, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Horned Lark, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Caro-

lina Wren, House Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, European Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Palm Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Black-and-White Warbler, American Redstart, Prothonotary Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern-Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Northern Oriole, Purple Finch, House Finch, Pine Siskin, American Goldfinch and House Sparrow for a total of 110 species. An additional species, Cattle Egret was observed on Sunday field trips, bringing the total to 111 species.

BOOK REVIEW

BIRDS OF INDIANAPOLIS, A Guide to the Region, Charles E. Keller and Timothy C. Keller, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Indiana, 1993, 145 pp., cloth \$25.00, paper \$12.95.

One of the goals of *The Kentucky Warbler* is to inform our readers of ornithological publications in Kentucky and elsewhere. The Kellers have studied and written about Indiana birdlife for many years. In addition Timothy Keller is a photographer of wildlife. I assume the 96 species illustrated with excellent color photographs represent his work. There are 125 described species; "all are species that the casual observer has a good chance of seeing in central Indiana." The book also contains a list of 341 species with information concerning the frequency of occurrence of each. The area covered is greater than Indianapolis; it includes all of Marion County plus seven surrounding counties. Thirteen birding areas are described and shown on two maps.

The introduction contains information on attracting and feeding birds, the art of birdwatching, and birding aids (binoculars and field guides). The authors state that they "have stayed away from the field guide approach," but this book would certainly be helpful in the field. Each species description includes habitat, local sites, status, length, and remarks. The remarks section occupies most of the printed space and may contain species descriptions and recognition clues, song, nest structure, food, ecological comments, conservation, etc., so that it really is more than a field guide. The amount of information provided varies from species to species and is given in clear, easily understood phrases. They describe Sharp-shinned Hawks as seeming "to be in high gear all the time as they dash among the trees in pursuit of their prey"; the Eastern Wood-Pewee as "a nondescript olive-greenish bird sallying forth from some exposed dead branch to snatch a small insect that passes by too closely"; Cedar Waxwings descending "on fruit-bearing plants like locusts in a grain field"; and the song of the Field Sparrow sounding "like a

ping-pong ball dropping on a tile floor." They describe the Carolina Wren using "planted flowerpots not only for nesting but also sometimes as roosting sites," a habit we have observed and enjoyed on our porch this year.

I was again made aware of our varying views of bird aesthetics. Many have begun to consider the numerous House Finches at our winter feeders as pests. The writers are aware of this, but they write that "the sight of a few dozen male House Finches at the thistle feeder in mid-January is a welcome sight and helps alleviate those winter spells of 'cabin fever.'" Apparently the Common Grackle is a greater pest at their feeding stations than here. They comment that "Aside from the European Starling and the House Sparrow few birds are held in such contempt as the Common Grackle. It is the terror of feeding stations, chasing more desirable birds away." They also effectively emphasize conservation, and they write about land use change and its present and possible future impact on bird species and abundance.

This is another useful publication written to stimulate birders, especially beginners, "to explore the charming and interesting world of birdlife in the Indianapolis vicinity." The publisher's work is professional. The print is clear, the binding well done, and there are few if any typographical errors. The flexible paper-back version has an attractive glossy cover. This book should be of interest and provide time-saving assistance to anyone birding in the Indianapolis area.

— H. E. Shadowen, 1927 Cedar Ridge Rd., Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101.

THE LOUISVILLE 1993-1994 MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT RESULTS

Center and habitat as described in 1972; Dec. 19; 6:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Temp. 33 to 40° F; Wind 0-10 m.p.h. It was partly cloudy all day and all water bodies were open.

There were 26 observers in 11-12 parties, plus 3 at feeders. Six hours were spent at feeders and 2 hours and 17 miles owling. Total party-hours 89.5 (37.5 on foot, 52 by car) and total party-miles 593.75 (32 on foot, 561.75 by car).

Observers: Garrett Adams, Janet Aylward, Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Marie Blahnik, Julie Campbell, Kathryn Clay, Frank Krull, John Krull, Jerry Lewis, Norman Lewis, Tim Love, Colleen Mansmith, Fred Mansmith, Nancy Matyunas, Mark Monroe, Dot Muntan, Doxie Noonan, Martha Pike, Bob Quaife, Lene Rauth, George Rodgers, Virginia Rommel, Helga Schutte, Anne Stamm, C.M. Stinson (compiler), Charles Stover, Scottie Theiss and Ed Toone.

Birds observed were 7 Pied-billed Grebes, 2 Horned Grebes, 5 Double-crested Cormorants, 28 Great Blue Herons, 254 Canada Geese, 3 Wood Ducks, 4 Green-winged Teal, 58 Am. Black Ducks, 993 Mallards, 5 Northern Shovelers, 24 Gadwalls, 10 Ameri-

can Wigeons, 5 Canvasbacks, 3 Ring-necked Ducks, 21 Lesser Scaup, 13 Hooded Mergansers, 26 Black Vultures, 6 Turkey Vultures, 2 Sharp-shinned Hawks, 7 Cooper's Hawks, 3 Red-shouldered Hawks, 42 Red-tailed Hawks, 54 American Kestrels, 1 Peregrine Falcon, 1 Wild Turkey, 6 Northern Bobwhite, 5 American Coots, 29 Killdeer, 79 Ring-billed Gulls, 1353 Rock Doves, 635 Mourning Doves, 4 Eastern Screech-Owls, 4 Great Horned Owls, 22 Belted Kingfishers, 77 Red-bellied Woodpeckers, 8 Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, 52 Downy Woodpeckers, 12 Hairy Woodpeckers, 68 Northern Flickers, 15 Pileated Woodpeckers, 1 Eastern Phoebe, 24 Horned Larks, 227 Blue Jays, 328 American Crows, 272 Carolina Chickadees, 126 Tufted Titmice, 2 Red-breasted Nuthatches, 35 White-breasted Nuthatches, 140 Carolina Wrens, 9 Winter Wrens, 69 Golden-crowned Kinglets, 5 Ruby-crowned Kinglets, 58 Eastern Bluebirds, 1217 American Robins, 1 Varied Thrush, 160 Northern Mockingbirds, 1 Brown Thrasher, 98 Cedar Waxwings, 12328 European Starlings, 14 Yellow-rumped Warblers, 389 Northern Cardinals, 34 Rufous-sided Towhees, 9 American Tree Sparrows, 33 Field Sparrows, 1 Fox Sparrow, 13 White-crowned Sparrows, 197 Dark-eyed Juncos, 2 Red-winged Blackbirds, 44 Eastern Meadowlarks, 65 Common Grackles, 4 Brown-headed Cowbirds, 344 House Finches, 191 American Goldfinches, and 433 House Sparrows. The total number of species was 78.

FIELD NOTES

First Reported Nesting of Long-Eared Owls in Kentucky

Early in 1993 the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (KSNPC) was contracted by the Kentucky National Guard (KNG) to conduct a two-year inventory for threatened and endangered species on KNG's three major training sites in the state. The largest of these is a 5,000 acre tract located a few miles west of Central City in Muhlenberg County. The site lies almost entirely on land that has been surface-mined for coal, and habitats vary from second-growth forest on unreclaimed mines to rolling grasslands on more recently mined and reclaimed land.

While conducting field work for the inventory, I visited this area several times during the spring and summer of 1993. On 9 March 1993, I was investigating one of several thickets of planted pines on the training site when I discovered a substantial roost of Long-eared Owls (*Asio otus*). Four birds were found in one area, but a larger group of at least twelve birds was found in another section of the planting. A carpet of droppings and pellets covered the ground under the main roost, indicating that it had probably been used all winter. Although a few Loblolly pines (*Pinus taeda*) were scattered in small patches, most of the trees in this planting were Virginia pines (*Pinus virginiana*). All of the owls were observed in the latter, and accumulations of pellets under others indicated the use of this tree most exclusively. The pine planting itself was situated within a transitional area separating unreclaimed mined land covered in second growth forest from more recently mined land that had been reclaimed and planted to grasses and assorted trees.

The presence of such a large number of birds so late in the winter suggested that a few might linger to breed, so on 10 May 1993 I returned in hopes of finding a nest. I

carefully searched the pine planting where the roosting owls had been in March and found several old nests built by crows, hawks, and/or squirrels, but the only active nest observed was that of a Green-backed Heron (*Butorides striatus*) that was under construction. In fact, none of the nests I saw seemed large enough to support an owl, and I began to suspect that none were present. I then moved to another pine planting about three quarters of a mile away, and began searching through it. After some time, I was beginning to consider giving up when I noticed some fresh droppings and a pellet on the ground at my feet. I turned to look upward and saw an adult Long-eared Owl, perched about ten feet directly over my head. It sat motionless for a moment, then took off, crashing clumsily through the branches as if injured before alighting in another pine tree less than a hundred feet away. This behavior was not typical of Long-eared Owls I have flushed during the winter, and it suggested the possibility of a nest or young nearby. After searching for about ten minutes, I found a nest about a hundred feet from where the adult had been perched. On top of the nest, a downy young owl was staring down suspiciously at me. It seemed to be at least half-grown, perhaps older, but was still completely covered with down. The long ears typical of the species were present in the form of tufts of white down that protruded comically from its forehead.

The nest was a bulky structure composed of sticks and dead leaves. Long-eared Owls are not supposed to build their own nest, rather they prefer to use old nests built by other birds or squirrels. This nest appeared to be that of a squirrel that perhaps had been enlarged or refurbished by a crow or hawk. It was placed along the trunk, about five or ten feet below the crown of a Virginia pine that was about thirty feet tall. The tree itself was not situated far from the margin of the pine thicket.

Since only one chick was visible in the nest, I began searching the immediate area for other young that might have already fledged. Not long afterward I found a nearly full-grown owl perched in another pine tree not far from where the adult had been perched. It was larger than the chick on the nest and had feathers protruding from the down that still covered most of its body. This bird sat motionless as I circled around it several times. Assuming an incubation period of nearly four weeks and about three and a half weeks from hatching to fledging, it would appear that the pair began incubating sometime in mid-March and the eggs hatched by the middle of April.

Although this represents the first documented nesting of Long-eared Owls in Kentucky, it is interesting to note John James Audubon's reference to the occurrence of Long-eared Owls in Kentucky (Mengel, *Birds of Kentucky*, p. 281). According to Mengel, Audubon regarded the species as "not rare" in Kentucky, especially in the barrens (native prairies) of the state. To my knowledge, Audubon's reference to the species' occurrence in Kentucky's prairies has never been interpreted as meaning that it was a permanent resident. Throughout the Great Plains, however, Long-eared Owls are residents of the native grasslands, roosting and nesting in secluded groves of trees and foraging within and along the margins of prairies. Especially in light of this recent discovery, it seems highly possible that Long-eared Owls nested in similar habitat in Kentucky at the time of settlement. — BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR., Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, 407 Broadway, Frankfort, 40601.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Kentucky National Guard's West Kentucky Training Site is closed to the general public.

A STUDY OF SHORT-EARED OWL PELLETS IN OHIO COUNTY

During the Fall of 1988 through the Summer of 1989 when there were, at the newly named Homestead Wildlife Management Area, many short-eared owls present, I was interested in the contents of their pellets and began to collect them. My study of 125 pellets is small but, in my opinion, significant,

This study was accomplished with the help of Dr. Thane Robinson of the University of Louisville. He painstakingly dissected each pellet and identified its contents..

Only one pellet was different from other pellets and it contained a Bog Lemming (*Synaptomys cooperi*). He said that it was the first one reported from Ohio County and he wondered if the owl had caught the Lemming from another area and arrived in Ohio County and regurgitated it there.

In the collection of 124 pellets there were 41 Prairie Voles (*Microtus ochrogaster*) or Yellow-bellied Voles, 81 Meadow Voles (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*), 1 pellet which contained an Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) skeleton and feathers and 1 pellet that contained a Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*) skeleton and feathers. The bird skeletons and feathers were identified by Dr. Burt Monroe, Jr. of the Biology Dept. of the University of Louisville.

From this study I have drawn the conclusion that these owls prefer rodents but will also feed on small birds. — KATHRYN CLAY, 434 Mallard Creek Road, Louisville, Kentucky 40207.

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 regularly updates the tapes with your reports of unusual bird sightings from around the state. Help support this service with your reports.

K.O.S. Avian Research Grant Fund

The Kentucky Ornithological Society has initiated an Avian Research Grant Fund. Persons that need money (*i.e.*, up to \$500.00) to assist them in conducting research on birds in Kentucky should contact the Kentucky Ornithological Society Avian Research Grant Fund Committee c/o Blaine Ferrell, Department of Biology, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101 for a set of guidelines and an application form.

The Fall K.O.S. Meeting

The fall Kentucky Ornithological Society Meeting will be held October 8, 9 and 10 at Pennyrite State Park. Please mark your calendars and make your room reservations early. If you plan to make a presentation at the Friday evening session, contact Wayne Mason, Department of Biology, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green 42101.