

2-1995

## Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 71, no. 1)

Kentucky Library Research Collections  
Western Kentucky University, [spcol@wku.edu](mailto:spcol@wku.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: [http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ky\\_warbler](http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ky_warbler)



Part of the [Ornithology Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Kentucky Library Research Collections, "Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 71, no. 1)" (1995). *Kentucky Warbler*. Paper 290.  
[http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ky\\_warbler/290](http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ky_warbler/290)

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

# The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

VOL. 71

FEBRUARY, 1995

NO. 1



## IN THIS ISSUE

THE FALL SEASON, 1993, Fred M. Busroe and Anne L. Stamm .....	3
SURVEY OF LEAST TERN NESTING COLONIES IN KENTUCKY Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. ....	5
MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT, 1994-1995, Blaine R. Ferrell .....	9
BOOK REVIEW, Blaine R. Ferrell .....	19
FIELD NOTE .....	19
NEWS AND VIEWS .....	20

---

## THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

President .....	Herbert Clay, Jr., Falls of Rough
Vice-President .....	Wayne Mason, Bowling Green
Corr. Sec.-Treasurer .....	Kay Parker 4107 Ciremos Terrace, Louisville, KY 40241
Recording Secretary .....	Herbert E. Shadowen, Bowling Green
Councillors:	
Marilee Thompson, Owensboro .....	1993-1995
Art Ricketts, Berea .....	1993-1995
Kathy Caminiti, Crittenden .....	1994-1996
Joyce Porter, Falls of Rough .....	1994-1996
Retiring President .....	Lee McNeely, Burlington
Staff Artist .....	Ray Harm

### THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

Organ of the *Kentucky Ornithological Society*, published quarterly in February, May, August and November. The *KENTUCKY WARBLER* is sent to all members not in arrears for dues. Membership dues are: Active or Regular, \$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 request for back issues should be sent to the Treasurer.

Editor .....

B.R. Ferrell, Biology Department, Western Kentucky Univ.  
Bowling Green 42101

### Editorial Advisory Board

Secretary, Kentucky Bird Records Committee .....

Anne L. (Mrs. F.W. Stamm)  
Burt L. Monroe, Jr.  
P.O. Box 23447, Anchorage 40233

---

### THE COVER

We thank the Missouri Department of Conservation for the cover photograph of the nesting Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*). See the article on Least Tern nesting colonies.

## THE FALL SEASON, 1993

FRED M. BUSROE AND ANNE L. STAMM

Precipitation was below normal throughout the region. The temperatures were above normal during the season. Based on the number of observations reported, the waterfowl and raptors were slow to arrive this fall. Shorebird movement may have over-flown due to the low amount of rain. The thrush and warbler movements were apparently rather weak or at least very scattered.

**Abbreviations:** BPS = Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County; CF = Coates Farm, Nelson County; CGNHP = Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, Bell County; Dan = Danville, Boyle County; DD = Dix Dam, Mercer County; EBPP = East Bend Power Plant, Boone County; Falls = Falls of Ohio, Louisville, Jefferson County; Han = Hanson, Hopkins, County; HWMA = Homestead Wildlife Management Area, Ohio County; JC = Jonathan Creek, Marshall County; KL = Kentucky Lake; LBL = Land Between the Lakes; L9 = Lake No. 9, Fulton County; LP = Lake Pewee, Hopkins County; Lou = Louisville, Jefferson County; LWC = Louisville Water Company, Jefferson County; MCB = Mayfield Creek Bottoms, Carlisle County; MC = Miller's Creek, Boone County; MCFH = Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County; SO = Silo Overlook, LBL; SWMA = Sloughs Wildlife Management Area, Henderson County; TI = Towhead Island, Louisville.

**COMMON LOON** — 14 at TI, November 24 (JB, PB); one flew overhead at CGNHP, November 26 (BS, SS); five on KL, November 29 (CP). Individual sightings in other areas of the state.

**HORNED GREBE** — One at MCFH, September 10 (LMc, FB).

**DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT** — 21 at DD, September 21 (FL, WK); 600+ seen from SO, September 24 (CP); 100+ in flight over BPS, October 2 (HC, KC); 105 on Ohio River, Louisville, November 2 (FM).

**LEAST BITTERN** — Five at MCB, October 6 (CP).

**GREAT EGRET** — Approximately 350 at L9, September 9 (CP).

**SNOWY EGRET** — 12 at L9, September 9 (CP).

**LITTLE BLUE HERON** — Approximately 200 at L9, September 9 (CP).

**CATTLE EGRET** — Eleven in Hickman County and 56 in Fulton County, September 6 (CP).

**BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON** — One at Falls, August 6 and four at Falls, August 28 (JB, PB).

**YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON** — One at Falls, August 6 (JB, PB).

**SNOW GOOSE** — 25 (Blue phase) in Ballard County, November 24 (MM).

**GREEN-WINGED TEAL** — Several seen at Petersburg, Boone County farm pond, November 24 (LMc); 10 on Ohio River Basin, Louisville, on November 25 (JB, PB).

**GADWALL** — Approximately 200 at JC, October 29 (CP); 40 at LWC, November 25 (JB, PB).

**RING-NECKED DUCK** — 143 at LP, November 8 and 30 at LP, November 19 (JH).

**SURF SCOTER** — Two on Ohio River, Louisville, November 22 (JB, PB).

**RUDDY DUCK** — Three on LP, November 8 and 19 (JH).

**TURKEY VULTURE** — 60 to 80 present at BPS throughout November (HC, KC).

**OSPREY** — Two at MCFH, September 10 (NKBC); one at HWMA (Island Lake), October 12 and November 19 (KC).

**BALD EAGLE** — One imm. at MCFH, September 10 (NKBC); one imm. at West Point, September 21 (DS).

NORTHERN HARRIER — Six+ with 2 being male at HWMA, November 19 (HC, KC).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK — 24 at Pinnacle Overlook, CGNHP, September 20 (BS).

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK — One at HWMA (Island Lake), November 19 (HC, KC).

PEREGRINE FALCON — One at Danville, November 4. These are seldom seen in the Danville Area (FL).

MERLIN — One at Pinnacle Overlook, CGNHP, September 20 (BS).

VIRGINIA RAIL — One in Calloway County, November 12. Documentation provided (MM).

AM. COOT — Approximately 540, October 20; approximately 1100, October 28; approximately 1200, November 8; approximately 1400, November 19. All observations on LP (JH).

SANDHILL CRANE — The major flight was on November 24 with the following observations. 19 on CF (DC); several hundred flying over Danville (FL); 300 overhead E. of Dan (WK *vide* FL); 200 over Hart County (SK); 7 on Green Farm Grayson County (MMc *vide* KC); 200 at MCFH (FB).

Shorebird observations were light throughout the entire state.

PIPING PLOVER — One at Falls, August 5 (JB, PB).

RUDDY TURNSTONE — Two at Falls, August 5 (JP, PB).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER — One at Falls, August 28 (JB, PB).

RING-BILLED GULL — Lower than normal numbers, along Ohio River (Boone and Gallatin Counties) (LMc); 400+ at KL (CP).

HERRING GULL — Three at KL, November 29 (CP).

GULL-BILLED TERN — One at Falls, August 27 (JB, PB).

CASPIAN TERN — Four to 14 birds at Falls, August 8-27, with greater numbers toward the later date (JB, PB).

COMMON TERN — One at MCFH, September 10 (NKBC, FB).

FORSTER'S TERN — Two at Falls, August 5 and 28 (JB, PB); approximately 50 at JC, October 29 (CP).

BLACK TERN — Eight at MCFH, September 10 (NKBC, FB).

SHORT-EARED OWL — Two at HWMA, Union School Road November 19 (HC, KC).

COMMON NIGHTHAWK — 75 over Prospect (Jefferson County), August 21 (FM). Early October small flock over Danville (WK *vide* FL).

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW — One heard near Hanson, August 1 (D. Hancock *vide* JH); 2 heard at BPS, August 7 (KC); 2 heard at Madisonville, August 15 (JH).

RUBY-TH. HUMMINGBIRD — Two (last date) at BPS, October 3 (HC, KC).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER — Below normal numbers during period in Danville area (FL); 2 at BPS, November 10 (HC, KC).

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE — One present at BPS until October 31 (HC, KC).

HORNED LARK — Five at EBPP, August 27 (LMc); fewer than normal for the period in the Danville area (FL).

WINTER WREN — One in Danville, October 20 (FL).

SEDGE WREN — One present in field N.E. of Madisonville, October 10 to 16 (JH).

MARSH WREN — Two at SWMA, October 23 (DC).

GOLDEN-CR. KINGLET — 51 at CGNHP, November 26 (BS, SS).

Thrush observations, one here and one there, very limited observations.

AM. PIPIT — 24 in E. Jefferson County, November 24 (JB, PB).

WARBLERS — Poor flight mostly single bird observations. Very low numbers of only the more common species in Danville area (FL).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER — One at BPS, August 27 (KC); 1 and 2 birds at Waverly Park (Lou), September 17 (JB, PB); one at CGNHP, September 22 (BS).

TENNESSEE WARBLER — Ten was the high count at MC, September 21 (LMc).

ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER — Four at BPS, October 24 (KC).

SUMMER Tanager — Four birds (male, female and 2 imm.) were present at BPS until October 25 (KC).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBREAK — Two at Tom Sawyer Park (JB, PB), two in Danville (FL) on October 1; two at BPS, October 2 (KC); one at Madisonville, October 4 and 13; 10 at Middle Creek (Boone County) one of the group was a partial albino, with white over much of the body, October 8 (LMc).

BLUE GROSBECK — Two singing near Madisonville, August 1, one heard near Providence, August 11, one heard on Bean Cemetery Road, Hopkins, Co., August 21 (JH); one at SWMA, October 23 (DC).

Probably the feature of the fall has been the scarcity of sparrows.

SHARP-TAILED SPARROW — Two at SWMA, October 23 (DC).

LE CONTE'S SPARROW — One at SWMA, October 23 (DC).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW — One at Visitor's Center CGHNP, September 22 (BS).

PURPLE FINCH — Only report for the region from Hanson, November 16 (JH).

PINE SISKIN — Only report was a flock of 20 in Hanson, November 2 to 4 (JH).

EVENING GROSBREAK — One at BPS, November 21 and 23 (KC).

**Contributors** - Jane Bell (JB), Pat Bell (PB), Fred Busroe (FB), Herbert Clay (HC), Kathryn Clay (KC), Dona Coates (DC), James W. Hancock (JH), William Kemper (WK), Steve Kistler (SK), Frederick W. Loetscher (FL), Fred Mansmith (FM), Mary McGee (MMc), Lee McNeely (LMc), Mike Miller (MM), Northern Kentucky Bird Club (NKBC), Clell Peterson (CP), Anne Stamm (AS), Barbara Stedman (BS), Stephen Stedman (SS), Donald Summerfield (DS), Bonnie West (BW).

-- 80 Green Valley Acres, Morehead 40351 (Busroe), and 9101 Spokane Way, Louisville 40241 (Stamm).

## 1994 SURVEY OF LEAST TERN NESTING COLONIES IN KENTUCKY

BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR.

The Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) was first documented nesting in Kentucky in the late 1930s (Mengel 1965). Since then nesting has been confirmed at scattered sites on the Mississippi and lower Ohio rivers. More recent records have come primarily from the Mississippi, and prior to 1994 successful nesting had not been documented on the Ohio River since the early 1950s (Mengel 1965). During the summer of 1994, the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission (KSNPC) conducted a survey of Least Tern nesting colonies within Kentucky. Other than partial surveys by the Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC), the only comparable effort that had

ever been undertaken previously in Kentucky was coordinated between KDFWR and KSNPC in August of 1984 (Evans 1984).

Least Terns use large exposures of sand and gravel for nesting, laying their eggs in shallow scrapes in the substrate (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1990). Numbers of the interior race (*S. antillarum athalassos*) have decreased significantly in the past century due to habitat alteration and destruction and human disturbance (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1990). In response to the need to assure that the Interior Least Tern would not become extinct, it was listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as Endangered on June 27, 1985 (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1990). Since that time much research has been conducted on nesting populations on the Mississippi River, primarily by MDC. Kentucky's three major nesting sites have been partially protected through agreements with local landowners, who have allowed MDC to post the sites with signs provided by KSNPC and the Nongame Wildlife Program of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR).

#### **Determination of suitable habitat**

Prior to the initiation of field surveys, an effort was made to identify all suitable nesting habitat. Rochelle Renken, a biologist with MDC was contacted for assistance in locating potential nesting habitat on the Mississippi River. She provided up-to-date information concerning suitable sites from Cairo, Illinois, to just downstream from New Madrid, Missouri. On June 27, 1994, an aerial survey was conducted for suitable nesting habitat on the lower Ohio and Mississippi rivers using a fixed-wing aircraft. The entire length of the Mississippi River in Kentucky was flown, along with the lower Ohio from its mouth upstream to the mouth of the Wabash River. Suitable habitat was marked on topographic maps. River conditions were about normal on both rivers, allowing for accurate assessment of habitat.

#### **Early nest surveys**

MDC studies have shown that if normal water levels are present, nesting activity on the Mississippi River occurs in two distinct peaks, one in late May and the other in late June to early July (Smith and Renken 1990). Surveys undertaken in mid-June and mid-July are optimal because they catch the maximum number of nests immediately prior to hatching. Within a day or so of hatching, chicks begin dispersing toward shade or water, and nest counts quickly become unreliable. Although late nesting involves some birds that have lost early nests due to predation or rises in water level, many late nests are the first of the season for others, especially young birds that are nesting for the first time (R. Renken, pers. comm.). We assumed that this would also be the case on the lower Ohio River, so two surveys were planned on each river.

KSNPC staff assisted MDC in conducting nest count surveys at several Mississippi River sites on June 18, 1994. Due to ongoing MDC research projects at the three main Kentucky sites (Mississippi River Mile (MRM) 945, 930, and 885), we did not conduct counts on them. At the two Kentucky sites we visited, nesting was confirmed at one and probable at the other (Table 1). Totals in Table 1 for the three unvisited sites were provided by MDC and represent highest counts made during their mid-June study period.

Timing of the contract did not allow us to get out on the Ohio River in mid-June, but KSNPC and KDFWR staff checked several sites between Paducah and Smithland Dam on the afternoon of June 27, 1994. Nesting was confirmed at two sites in Livingston County (Table 1). On June 28, 1994, we continued up the lower Ohio, checking additional sites. Nesting terns were located at one site in Union County (Table 1). All three sites where Least Terns were confirmed nesting on the lower Ohio appeared to be artificial islands created by dredge spoil.

At least 217 active Least Tern nests were counted during early (mid- to late June) surveys conducted by MDC, KSNPC and KDFWR. At most sites, chicks that had already moved from nests were observed, but they were not included in nest counts. At one site, the spoil island near Curlew, Union County, a nest survey was not conducted because there were so many chicks present. It was feared that conducting a survey might cause mortality, and we could find no birds that appeared to be incubating as we watched the island by boat. At only one site, the head of Middle Bar, did we suspect nesting but could not locate a nest or chicks.

#### **Late nest surveys**

KSNPC staff conducted surveys of the lower Ohio and Mississippi river sites where nesting had been documented in June, and checked additional sites on the Mississippi River that had been

Table 1. Lower Ohio and Mississippi River sites within Kentucky where Interior Least Tern nesting was confirmed in 1994

Site	Early Date	No. Nests	Remarks	Late Date	No. Nests	Remarks
Ohio River at end of Livingston Point Livingston County (ORM 932.5)	6/27	12	Some nests with small chicks; a few older chicks already off nests	7/18	0	No new nests; at least 15 chicks/juveniles observed; some still incapable of flight
Ohio River near Ledbetter Livingston County (ORM 928.5)	6/27	9	Some nests with small chicks; also scattered older chicks, some fairly large	7/18	2	Nest survey not complete; 30 birds (adults and juveniles in air over ternery); a few more nests possible; at least 6 chicks/juveniles observed
Ohio River, near Curlew Union County (ORM 866.5)	7/01	0; but 1 on 7/01	Numerous small to half-grown chicks scattered over small bar; probably at least 10 nests had been present	7/18	0	No new nests; but 2 small chicks observed; at least 23 flying juveniles observed
Mississippi River, below Island No. 1 Carlisle County (MRM 945.0)	6/18-21	42		7/19	78	A few nests with small chicks; a few large chicks observed; flying juveniles observed
Mississippi River, head of Middle Bar Hickman County (MRM 935.0)	6/18	0	Ca. 10+ defensive adults present; a few nests likely present	7/19	1	Six juveniles capable of flight also observed; 8-10 adults defensive; a few more nests possible
Mississippi River, sandbar near downstream end of Middle Bar, Hickman County (MRM 931.0)	6/18-21	117		7/19	0	No new nests, but at least 15-20 defensive adults observed; perhaps defending 10-12 flying juveniles still resting and feeding at the site
Mississippi River, head of Island No. 8 Fulton County (MRM 915.0)	6/18	1	Ca. 10-12 defensive adults present; a few more nests likely	7/20	3	At least 10 defensive adults flying overhead; a few more nests possible; also observed a few flying juveniles
Mississippi River, Kentucky Point, northwest end, Fulton County (MRM 890.5)	-	-		7/20	0	No nests observed, but scattered small to nearly full-grown chicks observed on bar; a few flying juveniles also observed
Mississippi River, dikefield along Watson Point, Fulton County (MRM 884.5-888.0)	6/18-21	35	Nest count was likely incomplete ( <i>vide</i> Rochelle Rentken)	7/20	70	Nest scattered on six different bars (ranging from 1-30 per bar); scattered small to medium-sized chicks seen on some; numerous flying juveniles also observed

Total nests

217

154



identified during the late-June overflight. Late nesting attempts were documented at only one site on the lower Ohio, but chicks and flying juveniles were still present at all three sites there (Table 1). On the Mississippi River late nests were documented at five sites, and reproduction was confirmed at two others based on the presence of chicks incapable of flight (Table 1). Only one of these sites, Kentucky Point, had not been visited by KSNPC or MDC in June.

At least 154 active nests were counted during late (mid-July) surveys conducted by KSNPC. At most sites chicks were observed that had already moved from nests, but these were not included in nest count totals. At one site, Kentucky Point in Fulton County, the presence of chicks was the sole evidence of nesting, so an accurate nest count was not available.

### Discussion

It was suspected that the timing of nesting on the lower Ohio River might lag slightly behind nesting on the Mississippi, but by June 27 many chicks had already hatched and moved from nest scrapes. For this reason, nest counts were probably a little low. At the Union County site, an estimate of nests had to be based on the number of chicks because it appeared that all or most eggs had hatched.

Survey work indicated that it is likely that more than 400 Least Tern nests were initiated in Kentucky in 1994, but because a comparable survey has never been undertaken in Kentucky (the 1984 KDFWR/KSNPC survey involved only late nests), we have no baseline with which to compare the 1994 data. The number of nests on the Mississippi River seems to vary annually according to data summarized by MDC for 1985-89 (Smith and Renken 1990). In years of fairly normal water levels (1986-88), nest counts on the Mississippi were 219, 197, and 115, respectively; however, these totals do not include re-nesting attempts following early failures. The 1994 total of 269 nests on the Mississippi River includes possible re-nesting efforts. Based on surveys undertaken by MDC in the last 10 years, it appears that year-to-year comparisons are meaningless given variation in survey coverage and water levels (Smith and Renken 1990). It is believed that other than the possible low counts at one or two of the MDC study sites, the 1994 survey was relatively thorough.

Successful nesting had not been documented on the Ohio River in more than 40 years, and the only confirmation of nesting has come from 1986, when two active nests in Livingston County were destroyed by high water (T. Siemsen, pers. comm.). It is likely that terns have nested, at least periodically, on the lower Ohio River in recent years, but that they have gone undetected. Because the Ohio River is maintained at a relatively stable summer pool level, nest sites actually may be more secure from inundation than Mississippi River sites. For this reason, the three Ohio River sites where nesting occurred in 1994 may be relatively important in some years when the Mississippi River rises during the nesting season. It is possible, for example, that nesting was very successful on the lower Ohio River in 1993 when the Mississippi River was in flood.

I wish to thank the following individuals for their assistance in conducting field surveys for nesting Least Terns: Traci Wethington (KDFWR), Darby Dougherty, Rob Klein, Stephen Walker, and Deborah White (KSNPC), and Rochelle Renken (MDC). This survey was accomplished using United States Fish and Wildlife Service funds available through Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act. The contract was administered by the Nongame Wildlife Program of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.

### LITERATURE CITED

- Evans, Sherri. 1984. Survey of Interior Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum athalassos*) nesting colonies on the Mississippi and lower Ohio rivers at Kentucky. Unpublished report. Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Frankfort, Kentucky.
- Mengel, Robert. 1965. The birds of Kentucky. American Ornithologists' Union Monograph No. 3. The Allen Press, Lawrence, Kansas.
- Smith, John and Rochelle Renken. 1990. Final Report: endangered species project No. SE-01-19. Improving the status of endangered species in Missouri (Least Tern investigations). Unpublished report prepared for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by the Missouri Department of Conservation.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1990. Recovery plan for the interior population of the Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*). U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Twin Cities, Minnesota.

-- Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, 801 Schenkel Lane, Frankfort, KY, 40601.

## MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT 1994-1995

Reports of 23 counts were received from across the state. A total of 121 species was recorded on count days, 112 of which are represented on the table. Those species observed on count days that are not represented on the table include: White-winged Scoter (1, Louisville), Ruddy Duck (1, Land Between the Lakes), Prairie Falcon (1, Paradise), Lesser Yellowlegs (1, Olmstead), Long-eared Owl (1, Paradise), *Selasphorus* hummingbird (1, Louisville), Marsh Wren (1, Paradise), Common Yellowthroat (1, Green River Lake), and Brewer's Blackbird (1, Olmstead). No additional species were added by observations made during the count week. There were two additional species observed this year compared with last. Only eight species were observed on every count and nine species only on one count. The overall total number of individuals on the table includes those individuals not represented on the table.

Approximately two-thirds of the counts were conducted either at the beginning or the end of the count period. The average low temperatures for given count days ranged from 15°F to 43°F and the highs between 35°F to 50°F. These temperatures were fairly mild and consistent with last year's temperatures during this time period. Also, consistent with last year, the number of waterfowl was down. Red-breasted Nuthatch numbers were back to normal. American Robin and Cedar Waxwing numbers dropped considerably compared with last year, perhaps due to the lack of food. Despite the ice and snowstorms last winter, Eastern Bluebird numbers appeared to remain relatively constant. The fact that stragglers of several species, such as White-eyed Vireo, House Wren, and Common Yellowthroat, and that waterfowl and northern finch numbers remained low was indicative of the influence of the mild winter weather. Purple Finch numbers continued to remain very low. As always, definitive conclusions regarding short term population trends based on results of these counts are not possible. Other observations of interest can be found in the comments accompanying the description for each count.

Thanks are sincerely extended to all participants, particularly those who submitted verification forms for unusual sightings and those who included interesting comments about their counts. In order to be included in the count and considered for state record status, documentation needs to be considered by the Kentucky Bird Records Committee (KBRC) for unusual sightings.

**Calloway County** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Douglas Cemetery.) Habitat 20% lake shore and streams, 20% deciduous and pine woods, 25% urban and residential, 35% open fields and pastures. Dec. 31; 6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky cloudy, misty; temp. 48°F. Rain off and on. 12 observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours 41 (14 on foot, 27 by car). Total party-miles 270.5 (11.5 on foot, 259 by car). Total species 84; total individuals 6,756.

Observers: Wally Brines, Hap Chambers (compiler), Joe Tom Erwin, Rick Hokans, Ruth Jacquot, Sally Leedom, Mike Miller, Clell Peterson, Lawrence Philpot, Lou Ann Philpot, Shari Sherwood, and Tommy Sherwood.

**Land Between the Lakes** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Pisgah Bay picnic ground.) Habitat as described in American Birds, 1984. Dec. 17; 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 45° to 56°F; wind SW, 0-5 m.p.h. 15 observers in 8 parties. Total party hours 57.5 (23 on foot, 34.5 by car). Total party-miles 375.5 (21 on foot, 354.5 by car). Total species 86; total individuals 8,820.

Observers: Wally Brines, Hap Chambers, Joe Tom Erwin, Lee Gentile, Bob Head, Rick Hokans, Carl Mowery (compiler), Kathy Mowery, Clell Peterson, Lawrence Philpot, Ed Ray, Shari Sherwood, Tommy Sherwood, Henry Yacek, and Paul Yambert.

Rains that caused lakes to rise and warm temperatures both contributed to low waterfowl numbers, low gull numbers and no shorebirds!! The Bald Eagle numbers were 19 adults and 7

immatures. An additional 30 duck spp. and 89 gull spp. were observed, but not included on the table. Also, three *Accipiter* spp. were observed on the count day.

**Marion** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Forest Grove.) Habitat open, woods and river. Jan. 1; 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky cloudy to clear in afternoon; temp. 30° to 40°F; wind N, 5 m.p.h. 2 observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 8 (5 on foot, 3 by car). Total party-miles 26 (2 on foot, 24 by car). Total species 28; total individuals.

Observers: C.L. Frazer (compiler), and Jim Frazer.

**Sorgho** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center 279-S and Audubon Parkway.) Habitat river, creek and river bottoms, farms, plowed fields, fish farm ponds and woods. Dec. 31; 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Sky overcast, occasional drizzle; temp. 40° to 47°F; wind 0 m.p.h. 15 observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours 32.5 (14 on foot, 18.5 by car). Total party-miles 192 (16 on foot, 176 by car). Total species 48; total individuals 10,388.

Observers: Pat Augenstein, Mike Brown, Brenda Eaden, Tony Eaden, Joe Ford, Neal Hayden, Janet Howard (compiler), John Humphreys, Joyce Porter, Bert Powell, Millie Powell, Tom Stevenson, Marilee Thompson, L.E. Wilson and Elinor Wilson.

Ten Northern Bobwhite were observed during the count week.

**Yelvington** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center intersection of KY 405 and 662.) Habitat farms and roadside ditches, same as in past years. Dec. 17; 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky partly cloudy with some sunshine; temp. 43° to 50°F; wind 5-10 m.p.h. 13 observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 30 (10 on foot, 20 by car). Total party-miles 76 (16 on foot, 60 by car). Total species 78; total individuals 4,311.

Observers: Pat Augenstein, Marty Brown, Mike Brown, Chuck Davis, Sharon Davis, Tony Eaden, Neal Hayden, Jan Howard, Jody Jones, A.L. Powell (compiler), Marvin Ray and Maudie Ray.

Habitat consisted of creek bottoms, several farms, Ohio River bottoms, Carpenter's and Kingfisher lakes, Yellowcreek Park, a large golf course, and several small lakes and sand pits. Of great note is the sighting of the Bald Eagle on the Ohio River at the old Rockport ferry (Maceo, Kentucky) by Mike Brown. The Peregrine Falcon was found on the Rockport Ferry Road. Always of great importance is the feeder report and the feeders of Marty Brown, Millie Powell and Maudie Ray yielded a variety of species and added greatly to the count. Two *Accipiter* spp. were observed on the count day.

**Hancock County** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Patesville.) Habitat woodland, open fields, and creek bottom. Dec. 29; 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 34° to 44°F; wind S, 5 m.p.h. 2 observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 8 (7 on foot, 1 by car). Total party-miles 20 (5 on foot, 15 by car). Total species 15; total individuals 75.

Observers: Roseann Radzelovage (compiler) and Walter Radzelovage.

**Olmstead** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Junction of KY 1041 and KY 1151, six miles southwest of Russellville, Kentucky.) Habitat about 75% cultivation type farmland, the remaining habitat includes blocks of deciduous woods, fence rows, pasture, grown-up fields, open water and developed areas. Dec. 23; 6:50 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 35° to 50°F; wind N, 10-20 m.p.h. Cold front pushed through about 7:30 a.m. causing wind. 3 observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 9.25 (1.5 on foot, 7.75 by car). Total party-miles 79.5 (2.25 on foot, 77.25 by car). Total species 51; total individuals 2,099.

Observers: John Allpress, Don Bennett, and Mark Bennett (compiler).

Few birds were flying due to cold, strong winds until approximately 2:00 p.m.

**Paradise** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1993.) Habitat as described in 1993. Jan. 2; 5:15 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 15° to 35°F; wind NW, 5-10 m.p.h. Water mostly open. 7 observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 26 (11 on foot, 15 by car). Total party-miles 144.5 (7 on foot, 137.5 by car). Total species 84; total individuals 19,165.

Observers: Mark Bennett, Joe Caminiti, Kathy Caminiti, Herbert Clay, Kathryn Clay, Lee McNeely, and Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler).

Weather conditions were good and the species total was excellent given the general lack of waterfowl and below average number of participants. Raptor totals were comparable to those of previous years. The Long-eared Owl was found at a new location not far from the previous years' site in Muhlenberg County. The total of 16 Short-eared Owls was incomplete. Other highlights included the Prairie Falcon (back apparently the seventh year in a row), the Marsh Wren (a third winter record for the state and the first for January), and five Pine Warblers.

**Bowling Green** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Three Springs, six miles south of Bowling Green.) Habitat deciduous forest 20%, fields and pastures 70%, and town and parks 10%. Dec. 18; 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky overcast; temp. 33° to 42°F; wind NW, 10-15 m.p.h. 9 observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 22.5 (8 on foot, 14 by car). Total party-miles 99 (6.5 on foot, 92.5 by car). Total species 59; total individuals 6,664.

Observers: Clint Blankenship, Lester Doyle, Blaine Ferrell (compiler), Dick Lord, Wayne Mason, Alice Rowe, Marvin Russell, Nancy Russell, and Herbert E. Shadowen.

**Mammoth Cave National Park** (Center and habitat as described in 1980.) Dec. 19; 7:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Sky mostly sunny; temp. 24° to 40°F; wind E, 0-5 m.p.h. 2 observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 7.5 (4.5 on foot, 3.0 by car). Total party-miles 57 (5 on foot, 52 by car). Total species 38 total individuals 513.

Observers: Clint Blankenship and Blaine Ferrell (compiler).

The highlight of the count was the adult Bald Eagle at First Creek.

**Glasgow** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1986.) Habitat as described in 1986. Dec. 27; 7:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 28° to 52°F; wind W, 5-10 m.p.h. (early morning); 0-5 m.p.h. for rest of the day. Heavy fog early; lifted by 10:00 a.m. 7 observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 32 (18 on foot, 14 by car). Total party miles 59.2 (12.5 on foot, 46.7 by car). Total species 52; total individuals 6,097.

Observers: Clint Blankenship, Marquita Gillenwater, Howard Malcolm, Francis Jones, Wayne M. Mason (compiler), Billie Mae Moore and Russell Starr.

Heavy boat traffic, due to unseasonably warm weather, chased waterfowl off the lake. Bonaparte's Gulls are becoming more common each winter. It was discouraging to see so few sparrows, and no sapsuckers nor Brown Creepers.

**Falls of Rough** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Short Creek, Kentucky.) Habitat woodland, river bottoms, cultivated fields, Rough River Lake, streams, watershed lakes, ponds and old fields, and yard feeders. Dec. 18; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky overcast; temp. 35° to 31°F; wind blustery a.m. to calm at the end of the day. Very little variation in temperature due to the overcast sky. 7 observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 25 (7.5 on foot, 17.5 by car). Total party-miles 144 (3 on foot, 141 by car). Total species 57; total individuals 2,142.

Observers: Herbert Clay, Jr., Katherine Clay, Tony Eaden, Neal Hayden, Joyce Porter (compiler), Doralee St. Clair and Wavy Young.

Owling done by compiler 5:00 a.m. to 6:15 a.m. and again 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. produced no owls, notable because on previous counts I have had owls. The only place that had owls was Big Pond Sanctuary.







CEDAR WAXWING	118	40	40	188	19	5	2	319	4	172	8	1	7	16	152	13	1104					
LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE	8	1	3	4	1	2	*	*	2		1	1	3		3	2	31					
EUROPEAN STARLING	737	1012	1100	472	262	4607	1	2299	620	1060	553	145	877	24527	990	610	396	9598	599	5618	59889	
WHITE-EYED VIREO	1										1										2	
YELLOW-R. WARBLER	6	6	4	1	25	14	50	26	18	12	78	17	20	3	3	7	3	7	3	8	19	320
PINE WARBLER	1				5																6	6
PALM WARBLER											1			2							3	3
N. CARDINAL	515	228	250	66	102	108	8	98	204	75	122	79	136	589	88	125	147	243	203	188	3944	
RUFOUS-S. TOWHEE	92	58	2	6	15	18	1	7	8	6	16		8	20	2	2	3	4	10	305	305	
AM. TREE SPARROW	5		12		13								2					3	39	8	82	
CHIPPING SPARROW															4						4	4
FIELD SPARROW	43	100	1	1	20	8	26			39		20	23		2	12	20	11	11	11	347	
SAVANNAH SPARROW	1			7	13	6						2							2		33	33
FOX SPARROW	2	3		2	2	1	2	1		3											19	19
SONG SPARROW	34	72	37	6	63	36	52	19	45	127	44	48	209	10	28	37	134	80	99	1264	1264	
SWAMP SPARROW	13	20			38	4	3	2	3	15	1	9	11		2	2	2	2	2	135	135	
WHITE-THR. SPARROW	297	62	32	28	16	140	6	70	16	41	133	6	8	102	12	19	38	28	28	1117	1117	
WHITE-CR. SPARROW	19	1	16	9	335	9	3					12	11	18	82	8	61	1	44	370	370	
DARK-EYED JUNCO	245	227	56	10	17	440	83	66	28	131	11	51	62	367	187	20	90	305	20	75	122	2326
RED-W. BLACKBIRD	140	430		6	5060	96	800	2	65	31		25	10		20	20	1			8667	8667	
EASTERN MEADOWLARK	86	23	*	3	49	16	31	47	82	96	27	7	2	17	7	2	27	17	17	17	767	
RUSTY BLACKBIRD				60				2		4		150		3	5					224	224	
COMMON GRACKLE	682	185	3704	166	11	10500	700		25		29	1			611	*				16584	16584	
BROWN-H. COWBIRD	10	16	236	10	18		400				25	216	*	1	26		26		8	966	966	
PURPLE FINCH	6	2	8				15		*	1		1	1	8	6	4				51	51	
HOUSE FINCH	84	60	12	58	148	6	181	75	50	369	23	68	461	59	111	38	2905	68	64	5033	5033	
PINE SISKIN	13	3									1										17	17
AM. GOLDFINCH	190	32		22	42	24	4	29	22	24	20	67	57	211	6	53	65	42	108	61	1184	1184
EVENING GROSBEAK				2				2													4	4
HOUSE SPARROW	169	20	454	108	125	5	92	19	45	20	59	116	412	307	34	4	232	31	169	2476	2476	

DAY OF COUNT	D31	D17	J1	D31	D17	D29	D23	J2	D18	D17	D29	D17	D26	D18	D27	D17	J1	D17	D31	D17				
NUMBER OF SPECIES	84	86	28	48	79	15	51	84	59	38	52	57	50	66	47	64	82	44	45	36	67	58	66	
INDIVIDUALS	6756	8819	1729	10393	4311	75	2099	19165	6664	513	6097	2143	2281	4238	1449	3382	34791	2326	2484	1503	16922	2868	7888	14889
OBSERVERS	11	15	2	15	13	2	3	7	9	2	7	7	6	5	9	9	32	7	12	6	28	18	11	9



**Hart County** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center same as in 1992.) Habitat as 1992. Dec.17; 6:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky mostly sunny; wind; light. 6 observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 11 (6 on foot, 5 by car). Total party-miles 80 (5 on foot, 75 by car). Total species 50; total individuals 2,281.

Observer: Steve Kistler (compiler).

**Green River Lake** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Green River Memorial Baptist Church, Taylor County, Kentucky.) Habitat Green River, Green River Lake, Campbellsville Sportsman Lake, lawns, farm fields, woods and brushy fields. Dec. 29; 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky overcast; temp. 34° to 45°F; wind 5-20 m.p.h. 5 observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 24.5 (12.5 on foot, 12 by car). Total party-miles 126 (11 on foot, 115 by car). Total species 67; total individuals 4,238.

Observers: Richard Cassell, Lloyd Curry (compiler), Richie Kessler, Bainard Palmer Ball, Jr., and Rich Sodano.

One adult and two immature Bald Eagles were observed. Also, two *Accipiter* spp. were observed.

**Otter Creek Park** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1972.) Habitat brushy fields 20%, woodlands 20%, farmlands 30%, park area and residential 15%, ponds, creeks and river 15%. Dec. 17; 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky partly cloudy to clear; temp. 39° to 49°F; wind N, 6-12 m.p.h. 9 observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 36.5 (12.5 on foot, 24 by car). Total party-miles 253 (12.5 on foot, 240.5 by car). Total species 47; total individuals 1,449.

Observers: Mary Bauer, Frank H. Krull, John Krull, Celia Lawrence, Joyce Metzger, Doxie Noonan, Jim Pasikowski, Helga Schutte, and Anne Stamm (compiler).

This was the poorest count since January 1, 1958 when 46 species of birds were recorded, with a total of 2,237 individual birds. All group leaders felt that birds were unusually scarce and difficult to find. Loons, grebes, and ducks were entirely absent from Doe Valley Lake. Cedar Waxwings were absent, while last year the species reached an all time high count of 699. Only four species of sparrows were found and were in low numbers, except the Song Sparrow.

**Bernheim Forest** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1974.) Habitat as described in 1974. Dec. 26; 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky cloudy to partly cloudy; temp. 28° to 38°F; wind NE, 0-5 m.p.h. Fog and haze obscured visibility in most areas all day. 9 observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 27.5 (13.5 on foot, 14 by car). Total party-miles 217.5 (5.5 on foot, 212 by car). Total species 64; total individuals 3,382.

Observers: Mary Bill Bauer, Jackie Elmore, Marcus Feldkoetter, Chuck Hatten, Bryan Lewis, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler), Don Parker, Ed Toone III, Ed Toone IV.

Low clouds and haze persisted throughout the day over most of the count circle. Waterfowl and winter finches were practically non-existent, and numbers of sparrows were uncharacteristically low for this count, even for the lack of much suitable habitat. The species total (64) was about average and one higher than last year. Highlights of the count were lingering summer residents including an Eastern Phoebe, at least one House Wren, and a White eyed Vireo. The latter is the first winter record for Kentucky. All three of these birds were located within a mile of one another along the protected ravine of Wilson Creek adjacent to the southern end of the Forest. The Bald Eagle was an immature.

**Louisville** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Jct. Hwys 42 and 22, as described in 1972.) Habitat as described in 1972. Dec. 18; 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 35° to 44°F; wind NW, 24 m.p.h. Very light snow. 31 observers in 14 parties, plus one feeder watcher. Total party-hours 85.25 (35.5 on foot, 49.75 by car). Total party-miles 614.5 (40.5 on

foot, 574 by car). Total species 82; total individuals 34,791.

Observers: Garrett Adams, Win Ahrens, Mary Bill Bauer, Jane Bell and Pat Bell (compilers), Marie Blahnik, Roland Blahnik, Dona Coates, Steve Figg, Chuck Hatten, Wayne Hinkle, Bob Johnson, Cheryl Jones, Frank Krull, John Krull, Tim Love, Coleen Mansmith, Fred Mansmith, Barbara McFarland, Jim McFarland, Burt Monroe III, Mark Monroe, Dot Muntan, Doxie Noonan, Martha Pike, Bob Quaiife, Lene Rauth, Helga Schutte, Carol Stover, Midge Susie, and Scottie Theiss.

Even though the number of species and individuals was up from last year, most participants felt that there were fewer birds to be found. Carolina Wrens and Northern Mockingbird numbers were down, maybe due to the severe weather last January. Warm fall weather kept two Gray Catbirds and a *Selasphorus* species in the area. Extra special birds were the eight Surf Scoters, one White-winged Scoter, and 89 Hooded Mergansers.

**Shelbyville** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center three quarters of a mile south of U.S. 60 and Guist Creek Lake on KY 714.) Habitat elevation 640'-1190', farmland, fallow land, suburban, wooded and grassland. Dec. 27; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky very foggy and cloudy in a.m. to clearing in p.m.; temp. 30° to 40°F; wind SE, 5 m.p.h. Fog so thick it iced trees, visibility was poor in a.m. 7 observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 21.5 (2 on foot, 19.5 by car). Total party-miles 225 (1 on foot, 224 by car). Total species 44; total individuals 2,326.

Observers: Iris Brown, Joan Brown, Todd Brown, W.H. Brown (compiler), James Derryberry and Margaret Derryberry and D.E. Snyder.

**Frankfort** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1972.) Habitat as described in 1977. Dec. 17; 7:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky mostly cloudy; temp. 48° to 49°F; wind SW, 16-20 m.p.h. Trace of rain during pre-dawn hours. 12 observers in 8 parties. Total party-hours 30.75 (15.5 on foot, 15.25 by car). Total party-miles 194.5 (12 on foot, 182.5 by car). 14.5 hours at feeders. Total species 45; total individuals 2,484.

Observers: Stuart Butler, James Derryberry, Margaret Derryberry, Jim Durell, Peggy Gould (Compiler), Ralph Gould, Pat Hankla, Scott Hankla, Virginia Honaker, Margaret LaFontaine, Susan Laurenson, and Tim Williams.

Food was not as plentiful as usual, with some euonomous, poison ivy, and bittersweet. Robins were found eating holly berries.

**Kleber Wildlife Management Area** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1972.) Habitat as described in 1972. Jan. 1; 7:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 25° to 47°F; wind NW, 19-27 m.p.h. Intermittent rain, sleet, and snow throughout the day. 6 observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 22.5 (8.5 on foot, 14 by car). Total party miles 196.5 (8.5 on foot, 188 by car). Total species 36; total individuals 1,503.

Observers: Horace Brown, James Derryberry, Margaret Derryberry, Jim Durell, Peggy Gould (compiler), and Ralph Gould.

All water was in good supply and adequate food was present (holly, corn in fields).

**Danville** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Boyle County Courthouse.) Habitat water/edge 15.2%, urban 3.9%, cultivated 12.9%, field/fence 36.6%, wood/edge 28.9%, feeder 2.5%. Dec. 17; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky partly cloudy to clear; temp. 41° to 50°F; wind S, 5 m.p.h. 28 observers in 9 parties. Total party-hours 68 (17 on foot, 51 by car). Total party-miles 714 (18 on foot, 696 by car). Total species 69; total individuals 14,371.

Observers: Ed Caldwell, Bob Corcoran, Lois Corcoran, Ginny Eklund, Neil Eklund (compiler), Martha Foster, JoAnn Hamm, Michael Hamm, Mrs. West T. Hill, Lee Hoaglund, Mort

Hoaglund, Tom Kearns, J.W. Kemper, F.W. Loetscher, Dan W. MacDonald, Charlie Martin, Scott Mello, Eric Mount, Jack Newton, Alex Nichols, John B. Nichols, Rob Pendygraft, Herb Petitjean, Jack Pogue, Lee Russell, Joan V.G. Smith, Chris Strecker, and Betty Ullrich.

Three *Accipiter* spp. and 61 sparrow spp. were observed. In addition, Lesser Yellowlegs were observed during the count week.

**Burlington** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center near Camp Michaels.) Habitat as described in 1992. Dec 31; 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky overcast; temp. 42° to 49°F; wind S, 6-10 m.p.h. Intermittent light rain throughout the day. 18 observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 31 (14 on foot, 17 by car). Total party-miles 197 (10 on foot, 187 by car). Total species 58; total individuals 2,868.

Observers: P.T. Barrington, Peggy Barrington, Brenda Bellamy, John Bellamy, Vivian Brun, Joe Caminiti, Joey Caminiti, Kathy Caminiti, Elaine Carroll, Marjorie Hill, Lee McNeely (compiler), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Karen Puckett, Katie Raverty, Maggie Raverty, Pat Raverty, Tommy Stephens, and Gene Wolfe.

Weather kept bird numbers low throughout the day. Best finds were two Loggerhead Shrikes and two Savannah Sparrows.

**Warsaw** (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Gallatin County courthouse.) Habitat as described in 1992. Dec. 17; 6:30 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Sky overcast in a.m., clear in p.m.; temp. 42° to 48°F; wind W, 8-12 m.p.h. 11 observers in 4 parties. Total party hours 36 (13 on foot, 23 by car). Total party-miles 286 (7 on foot, 279 by car). Total species 66; total individuals 7,888.

Observers: P.T. Barrington, Joe Caminiti, Joey Caminiti, Kathy Caminiti, Granville Cary, Richard Cassell, Kevin Flowers, Frank Lewandowski, Lee McNeely (compiler), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and Tommy Stephens.

Unusual finds included two Surf Scoters on the Ohio River above Markland Dam along the Indiana shore, an Osprey at Craig's Creek, and a House Wren. Notable by their high numbers were 113 Black Vultures and 111 Wild Turkeys.

## BOOK REVIEW

THE BIRDS OF KENTUCKY, Burt L. Monroe, Jr. with paintings by William Zimmerman, Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 1994, 145 pages, 51 paintings, index and bibliography, \$49.95 with a special discount for Kentucky Ornithological Society members.

It is no coincidence that *The Birds of Kentucky* bears the same name as the 1965 classic on species occurrences written by Robert M. Mengel. Burt L. Monroe, Jr. was a close friend of Mengel's and respected his ornithological work. Despite Monroe's national and international status as an outstanding ornithologist, he devoted a large portion of his time studying the avifauna of Kentucky. This book is a much needed continuation of the ornithological legacy of Mengel and is a welcome edition for those who have followed bird population trends in Kentucky.

Beginning with a brief synopsis of the fascinating history of ornithological study in Kentucky and a description of the physiographic regions of the state as they relate to avifauna distribution, Monroe moves immediately into species accounts. The accounts of the occurrence of all 345 bird species on the official state list are thorough, follow the format of *The Annotated Checklist of the Birds of Kentucky*, and include disclaimers of previous spurious documentation's. In addition to accounts of dates and places of species occurrences and numbers, the book includes comments on behavior, breeding biology, preferred habitats and distinguishing field marks. A reader can get a sense of population trends in Kentucky avifauna through the accounts of the changes in distribution and levels of occurrence of certain species. For quick reference on the seasonal occurrence of a particular species, the reader can refer to the graphical representations at the back of the book.

The artwork by William Zimmerman is outstanding. His paintings follow the style of Audubon, but the postures are not as stilted, and the plumages are softer in appearance. Fifty-one species are depicted in rich colors on full page plates. The poses are realistic and many of the backgrounds are rich without distracting the viewer from the birds. Although the birds depicted on the plates are presented in the taxonomic order of the text, their placement does not correlate with the text. The plate of the Northern Bobwhite for example, occurs in the middle of the accounts of shorebirds. This placement might confuse the novice. However, the plates are labeled on the facing page or on the back and any problems with placement can be easily overcome. Also the artist included a few species not documented to occur in Kentucky, such as the Black Rail and Bohemian Waxwing, probably as a matter of convenience.

Although not a book the average person would pick up and read from cover to cover, it continues the legacy of Mengel in giving a thorough account of the occurrence of bird species in Kentucky. It is an excellent reference book for the beginning birder and the professional interested in Kentucky avifauna. Monroe wanted everyone to share in his enthusiasm for birding. This book, with its wealth of information on Kentucky birds and the excellent color paintings, creates the excitement he wanted to generate and is well worth the price.

--B.R. Ferrell, Department of Biology, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY, 42101.

## FIELD NOTE

### Unusual Occurrence of Mating Behavior in American Woodcocks

The American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*) is fairly common during the breeding season in northwestern Grayson County. Each spring, I'm blessed with the annual woodcock mating ritual, one that is more often heard than seen. The slightly buzzy peent peent call from the ground before taking flight, a pause, then the winning sound of the wings from above as it comes back to earth usually starts mid to late February depending on the weather. I've never witnessed the full flight display, just bits and pieces. However, I had one bird fly by my face as I stood at the end of my driveway at dusk on a March day. The angle of its flight pattern was slightly above the horizontal. Later that same spring, I flushed one from a damp silty spot just below the driveway and found the neat holes made by its bill while "doodling" for its midday meal. I've flushed woodcock on two other occasions, once from the leaf littered floor of a woodland and secondly from an area densely thicketed with buckberry, honeysuckle, and multiflora rose. It was late springtime and neither time could I find the nest.

Dr. Burt Monroe, Jr., in his recent book *The Birds of Kentucky*, mentions that woodcocks are "decidedly rare between early December and mid-February." Mengel, in his book *The Birds of Kentucky*, listed "no consecutive observations at any one locality proving the occurrence throughout January." I observed American Woodcock at Short Creek Community, Grayson County on the following dates: December 15 at 5:00 p.m. (Temp. = 45°C), January 12 at 6:00 a.m. (Temp. = 62°C), and

January 27 at 5:20 p.m. (Temp. = 38°C). Atmospheric conditions for each of these sightings were damp with dense cloud cover. On January 27 there was a misting rain causing the air to be so laden with moisture as to appear foggy. The birds were observed in habitat comprised of small open fields bordered by trees and woodlots with scattered dwellings. A creek flows through the area. Ground cover in the fields is grassy -- a lot of broom sedge, some big bluestem, little bluestem, Indian grass, fescue, butterfly weed, milkweed, other wildflowers and clover.

Meteorologists are telling us that El Nino is back. This is the name given to a large body of unusually warm water which forms in the western Pacific Ocean and which affects global weather patterns by rearranging large masses of air which in turn changes the course of the jet stream. Hence, we have the probable cause for the mild winter in the eastern half of the United States and the probable cause for the out-of-season occurrence of mating behavior in American Woodcocks at Short Creek.

-- Joyce L. Porter, P.O. Box 555, Falls of Rough, Kentucky 40119.

## 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. Currently, two grant applications are pending.

### K.O.S. Spring Meeting

The K.O.S. spring meeting will be held April 28-30 at Mammoth Cave National Park. Look for the announcement of the meeting, plan on attending, and make your room reservations early. Those interested in making a presentation at the Friday evening session, please contact Wayne Mason, Department of Biology, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY 42101 (phone: 502-745-6012)

### Seasonal Reports

Please send all field notes for seasonal reports to Fred Busroe, Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences, Morehead University, Morehead, Kentucky 40351.