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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 request for back issues should be sent to the Treasurer.

Editor

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

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Anne L. (Mrs. F.W. Stamm)
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P.O. Box 463, Burlington, KY 41005

THE COVER

We thank Philippe Roca for this excellent photograph of a Pileated Woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*).

**IN MEMORIAM:
SISTER CASIMIR CZURLES 1907-1994**

Sister Casimir Czurles was born Emily Czurles on July 9, 1907 in Elizabeth, New Jersey, but grew up in Amsterdam, New York. She worked her way through high school and college, earning a B.A. in biology and English from New York State Teachers College. Sister Casimir went on to earn an M.A. in botany/zoology from Cornell in 1931, where she worked for a short time as Assistant to the Curator of the Herbarium for 35 cents/hour. Although tempted to stay on at Cornell for a Ph.D., she left to teach biology, chemistry, and physical education at Mount St. Joseph in Owensboro for \$800/year.

Emily Czurles entered the Ursuline novitiate in 1933 and took her religious name for the patron saint of Poland. Sister Casimir taught at two high schools in Owensboro before returning to teach at Mount St. Joseph Junior College in 1943, where she served as registrar from 1946 to 1950. While there, she also began teaching college biology and chemistry at the Owensboro extension campus.

Sister Casimir headed the Biology Department of Brescia College from 1945 to 1970, developing the biology and pre-professional curricula and playing a key role in designing the present day Science Building. She passed on her love of learning and deep respect for knowledge to her students. She served as role model by continuing her education throughout her lifetime, taking courses and attending workshops at various institutions of higher education throughout the country. Although difficult for her, she retired from Brescia in 1985. Her legacy at Brescia lives on thanks to a Sister Casimir Czurles Biology Scholarship fund.

Sister Casimir was a member of the Kentucky Ornithological Society and served as secretary and vice president of the Owensboro chapter and secretary for the state organization. Sister Casimir was a very active member and always made the field trips at meetings very interesting. Sister Casimir died December 19, 1994.

--Blaine Ferrell
Western Kentucky University

Corrigenda: In *The Kentucky Warbler*, Vol. 71, No.1, the date of the Fall Season (pg. 3) should have been 1994, not 1993. Also, the last three lines of the Mid-winter Bird Count report for the Falls of Rough (pg.11), beginning with Owling....., should be omitted. Additionally, all temperatures reported in the Field Note about American Woodcocks (pg. 19) should be in degrees Fahrenheit, not Celcius.

THE WINTER SEASON, 1994-1995

FRED M. BUSROE

Weather - Winter conditions during the period were erratic. On the average the temperatures were above normal - cold periods followed by 60 degree days. Several small snows occurred, but no major accumulations. January precipitation was slightly above normal while February's was below normal. Ponds may have frozen over but not for long periods, while the lakes may have had some thin ice.

Abbreviations - BGNP = Bear Grass Nature Preserve, Jefferson County; BPS = Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County; CRL = Cave Run Lake, Rowan County; CL1 = City Lake # 1, Madisonville, Hopkins County; FO = Falls of the Ohio, Jefferson County; FL = Freeman Lake, Elizabethtown, Hardin County; HWMA = Homestead Wildlife Management Area, Ohio County; GRL = Green River Lake, Taylor County; Lin = Lake Linville, Rockcastle County; LPew = Lake Pewee, Hopkins County; LRe = Lake Reba, Madison County; LWB = Louisville Water Co. Basins, Louisville; Lou = Louisville; Mam = Mammoth Cave National Park, Edmonson County; MBC = Mid-winter Bird Count; MCFH = Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County; OFL = Owsley Fork Lake, Madison County; ORB = Ohio River Basin, Louisville, Jefferson County; PHSM = Peabody Homestead Surface Mine, Ohio County; Pro = Prospect, Jefferson Co.; RRSP = Rough River State Park, Grayson County; SWMA = Sauerheber Wildlife Management Area, Henderson County; SC = Short Creek, Grayson County; Slo = Slough Wildlife Management Area, Henderson County; UKF = Univ. of Kentucky Farm, Fayette County.

COMMON LOON — 6, GRL, December 3 (JB, PB); 1, LPew, December 3, 4, & 27 (JH); 2, Lin, January 8 (AR, TR).

PACIFIC LOON — A single bird was observed at FL, February 12 (JB, PB, RH, JP, SK). This is an unusual bird for Kentucky and as yet has not been approved by the Kentucky Bird Records Committee, but it probably will pass as it was seen by competent birders.

PIED-BILLED GREBE — Low number this year. Singles spotted throughout the area, largest number was 11 at HWMA, December 3 (KC, JP).

HORNED GREBE — 3, LPew, December 3 (JH); 2, ORB December 11 (JB, PB); 1, FL, February 20 (AR, TR).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT — Normally many records of this species, but 14 birds at FO on January 8 (JB, PB) was the only report.

GREAT BLUE HERON — One to five were reported throughout the area during the period. The highest report was an average of about 20 birds at MCFH (FB).

SNOW GOOSE — 2 (white phase) LPew, December 3 (JH); 2 (white phase) MCFH, February 3 and 3 white phase + 1 blue phase, CRL, February 11 (FB); 1, FL, February 20 (AR, TR); 20, SWMA, February 26 (JP).

CANADA GOOSE — 400, HWMA, January 2 (KC); 110, CL1, February 13 (JH); 2500, PHSM, February 11 (JP); 5000, SWMA & Slo, February 25 (DCAC); 3000, SWMA & Slo, February 26 (JP).

WOOD DUCK — 2, OFL, February 28, two weeks earlier than 1994, (AR, TR).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL — 6, December 11 and 8, January 16, LWB (JB, PB); 12, SWMA, February 26 (JP).

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK — 3, Ohio River, Lou, December 1, (JB, PB); 4, December 11 and 3, LWB, January 16 (JB, PB); 30, OFL, February 9 (AR, TR).

NORTHERN PINTAIL — 1, ORB, December 17 (JB, PB).

NORTHERN SHOVELER — 2 males + 2 females, UKF, February 3 (WD); 50, SWMA & Slo, February 25 (DCAC); 20, SWMA & Slo, February 26 (JP).

GADWALL — 7, LWB, December 11, (JB, PB); 10, LRe, January 3 (AR, TR); 6, UKF, February 3 (WD); 10, CL#4, February 3 (JH).

AMERICAN WIGEON — 2, Porter Farm, Grayson County, February 2 (JP); 8, PHSM, February 11 (JP). 10, Slo, February 26 (JP).

CANVASBACK — 2 to 6, ORB from December 11 to January 16 (JB, PB); 6, LPew, December 17 & 20 (JH); 5, LRe, December 27 (AR, TR); 10, January 17 and 20, January 31, LPew (JH).

REDHEAD — 1, PHSM, January 21 (JB, PB); 1, Lin, February 11 (AR, TR).

RING-NECKED DUCK — Scattered reports, highest numbers were 60, LWB, January 16 (JB, PB); and 60, OFL, February 18 (AR, TR).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER — One seen first time on December 17 (seen several times during the season), ORB, (JB, PB).

SURF SCOTER — 1, ORB, December 11, (JB, PB).

COMMON MERGANSER — 9, LWB, December 11 (JB, PB); 1 male, PHSM, February 11 (JP); 1m. + 2f., MCFH, February 12 (FB).

RUDDY DUCK — Scattered reports from the area with the high numbers being 38, December 17 and 32, January 17, LPew (JH); 4, FL, February 11 (JP).

BLACK VULTURE — 35, BPS, December 9 (KC); 1, e. Jefferson County, December 17 (JB, PB); 2, Ohio County, January 21 (JB, PB); 1, Mam, February 26 (JB, PB).

TURKEY VULTURE — Two reports. 2, RRSP, January 29 (JP); 1, LRe, February 9 (AR, TR).

BALD EAGLE — Few reports: 4, GRL, December 3 (JB, PB); 1-4 adults, 2 immatures, MCFH, January 3-February 27 (FB); 1 adult, SC, January 29 (JP); 1 adult Lin, February 11 (AR, TR). Only 49 were reported on MWC.

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK — One took a Com. Grackle from a feeder, Rowan County, February 28 (FB).

COOPER'S HAWK — 2 all season, BPS (KC, HC); 1, River Walk, Lou, February 26 (JB, PB).

NORTHERN HARRIER — 2, GRL, December 3 (JB, PB) 10 in Ohio County, December 9 (JB, PB); Two birds all season at Short Creek, Grayson County (KC); 1, SC and 1 PHSM, February 11 (JP)

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK — 1, HWMA, December 3 (KC); 1, HMWA, December 9 (JB, PB); 1, HMWA, December 10 (KC); 6, HMWA, January 21 (JB, PB); 2, PHSM, February 11 (JP); 2, Rt. 62 near Versailles, Woodford County on February 20 (AR, TR).

PEREGRINE FALCON — One seen at Big Four Bridge, Louisville, Jefferson County on January 16 (JB, PB).

WILD TURKEY — 24, HMWA, December 3 (KC, JP); 73, Muhlenberg County, December 3 (KC, JP); 30, PHSM, December 9 (JB, PB); 7, Green Farm, Grayson County, December 17 (JP).

AMERICAN COOT — Reports are from two areas: Lake Pewee, 870, December 3; 574, December 17; 597, December 27; 294, January 10; 450, January 17; 340, January 25; 170, January 31; 65, February 13 (JH) and 65 at PHMS, February 11 (JP).

SANDHILL CRANE — Unusual number of sightings. 400-500, Seneca Golf Course, Lou, December 13 (TF *vide* FM); 2, w. Grayson County, December 17 (JP); 200, Elizabethtown, December 27 (JN *vide* PB); 250-300, BPS, December 30 (KC); 22, east Lou, January 2 (DN); 125, Southern Parkway, Lou, January 5 (RB); 14, Hart County, February 14 (SK); Several hundred passing over Hart County February 20-26 (SK); Two flocks - 35 + 20, Hikes Point, Jefferson County, February 25 (JJ, RB); 20, Mam, February

26 (JB, PB).

KILLDEER — 69, UKF, December 23 (WD); 3-5, MCFH, during period (FB).

DUNLIN — 1, GRL, December 3 (JB, PB); 3, MCFH, January 27 (FB).

COMMON SNIBE — 3, December 3; 4, December 27; 2, LPew, January 10 (JH); 1, MCFH, January 27 (FB).

AMERICAN WOODCOCK — 1, SC, December 15 - February 23 (JP); 5-6, BPS, February 19 (KC); 4, BGNP, February 25 (JB, PB).

Gull reports were few.

BONAPARTE'S GULL — 50, GRL, December 3 (JB, PB), 15-20, MCFH, December-February (FB).

RING-BILLED GULL — 8, LPew, January 10 (JH); 30, RRSP, February 18 (JP); 150-175, MCFH, December-February (FB).

HERRING GULL — 1 at MCFH on February 19 & 24 (FB).

E. SCREECH-OWL — 2, Pro, December 18 (FM); 1, Cherokee Park, Lou, January 13 (JB, PB).

GREAT HORNED OWL — 1, Cherokee Park, Lou, December 3 (JB, PB); 2, Pro, December 18 (FM); 1, Cherokee Park, Lou, January 15 (JB, PB).

BARRED OWL — One report: 1, BPS, February 11 (KC).

LONG-EARED OWL — One report: 1, strip mine area, Muhlenberg County, January 8 (HCh, KC, JI, JP).

SHORT-EARED OWL — One report of a single bird at the Army Depot in Madison County, December 1 (WD).

HORNED LARK — 12, Ohio County, December 10 (JB, PB); 24, e. Jefferson County, December 17 (JB, PB).

BROWN CREEPER — Two reports: 1, Towhead Island, Lou, December 11, and 1, Mam, February 26 (JB, PB).

WINTER WREN — Only one report: 1, Mam, February 26 (JB, PB).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET — 10, GRL, December 3 (JB, PB); 1, LWB, January 16 (JB, PB); 1, BPS, February 8 (KC); 6, Mam, February 26 (JB, PB).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET — 4, GRL, December 3; 1, LWB, December 11; 1, LWB, January 16 (JB, PB); 2 at BPS during December and February (KC).

HERMIT THRUSH — 5, GRL, December 3 and 1 at Mam February 26 (JB, PB).

AMERICAN PIPIT — Only one report. A single bird at LRe, February 15 (AR, TR).

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE — 1 to 2 birds in the area of SC all season (JP).

YEL.-RUMPED WARBLER - 11, GRL, December 3 (JB, PB); 3 to 4 at BPS, all season (KC); 7, Mam, December 26 (JB, PB); 25, MCFH, February 24 (FB).

PINE WARBLER — 8 in Muhlenberg County, January 21 (JB, PB).

COMMON YELLOWTHROAT — 1, LWB, December 11 (JB, PB).

SPARROWS — Few reports.

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW — A single bird at Ohio River Bottoms, Henderson County, February 26 (JP).

FOX SPARROW — Two reports: 4, GRL, December 3 (JB, PB); one bird all season BPS (KC).

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD — 8, Pro, February 20 (FM).

PURPLE FINCH — Scarce this winter. 6, BPS, (KC); 2, GRL, December 3; 1, Ohio County, December 10; 1, Mam, February 26 (JB, PB); 2, Berea, February 2, (AR, TR).

HOUSE FINCH — Very common throughout the area.

PINE SISKIN — No reports.

EVENING GROSBEAK — No reports.

Contributors - Jane Bell (JB), Pat Bell (PB), Robert Brown (RB), Fred Busroe (FB), Hap Chambers (HCh), Herbert Clay (HC), Kathryn Clay (KC), Wayne Davis (WD), Daviess County Audubon Chapter, including: Pat Augenstein, Joe Ford, Caryoln & Robert Hast, Bert & Millie Powell, Joyce Porter, Doralee St. Clair, Chs. & Donna Worthington (DCAC), Terry Foster (TF), James Hancock (JH), Richard Healy (RH), Joe Tom Irwin (JI), Judith Jones (JJ), Steve Kistler (SK), Fred Mansmith (FM), Joan Noel (JN), Doxie Noonan (DN), Joyce Porter (JP), Art Ricketts (AR), Tina Ricketts (TR).

-- UPO 1352, Morehead State University, Morehead, KY 40351.

SPRING NEOTROPICAL MIGRANT SURVEY IN THE BIG SOUTH FORK NATIONAL RIVER AND RECREATION AREA, KENTUCKY AND TENNESSEE

STEPHEN J STEDMAN

Introduction

During April and May 1994, I conducted seven transect surveys to detect birds within the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area (BSFNRRRA) under a volunteer agreement with personnel administering this federal site. The primary purpose of the surveys was to determine the presence and relative abundance of neotropical migrant bird species using the area, while their secondary purpose was to provide a record of all avian species present.

I recorded 94 species of birds within the BSFNRRRA during seven days of observations. Since systematically collected ornithological data from the BSFNRRRA have not been frequently published, I present my results as a basis for future spring field work within this area by Kentuckians and Tennesseans.

Survey Area

Located within McCreary County, Kentucky, and Fentress, Morgan, Pickett, and Scott counties, Tennessee, the BSFNRRRA comprises slightly more than 50,600 hectares (125,000 acres). About 30% of the area lies in Kentucky, and the remainder in Tennessee. The area lies within the Cumberland Plateau physiographic province and is characterized by the deep gorges of the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River and its tributaries.

Elevation on the uplands of the area ranges from about 400 m (1300 ft) to about 500 m (1600 ft), while elevation along the Big South Fork ranges from about 220 m (720 ft) at Yamacraw Bridge in Kentucky to about 300 m (1000 ft) at the confluence of Clear Fork and New River in Tennessee.

Oak-hickory and pine forests, ranging in age from 40 to 70 years, dominate the dry ridge tops and south-facing slopes of the area. In moist, sheltered, fertile sites, forest types grade to maple, beech, and hemlock. Small sections of some tributary gorges contain

uncut or old second-growth stands. Co-dominants on floodplains along the main river include sycamore and river birch.

Methods

Transect routes were placed along existing marked and unmarked trails and logging roads within BSFNRRRA. Two (28%) of the seven transect routes were placed in Kentucky and five (72%) in Tennessee, to approximate the percentages of the area lying within those states. To conduct each transect, the survey worker(s) walked the transect route at a rate of 1.6 to 2.5 km/hr (1-1.5 mi/hr) and recorded numbers of all birds species seen or heard from the trail or logging road constituting the route, thus repeating the methodology used by Davis *et al.* (1980) and by Davis and Williams (1993) during a survey of breeding birds within Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. Bibby *et al.* (1992) state that simple transect routes of this sort -- where all birds are counted regardless of distance from the transect line -- may be used to generate indices of the relative abundance of bird species. They also state that about 40 registrations of a species must be obtained if reasonably valid data are to result from transect surveys. Ten species of Neotropical migrants were registered 40 or more times during the seven transects.

The transect routes are described below in detail so that they may be replicated during future spring seasons. Further details about the transects may be obtained from the Resource Manager's Office at BSFNRRRA.

Burnt Mill Bridge Loop -- Walk this loop clockwise beginning at Burnt Mill Bridge parking area.

Twin Arches Loop -- Begin at Twin Arches parking area; proceed to Charit Lodge; proceed up logging road to the trail to Jake's Place and take that trail to the Twin Arches; take the return trail that leads over the arches to the parking area.

No Business Creek Loop -- Begin at the end of Terry Cemetery Road; take Maudes Crack to the John Muir Trail and proceed east to the Big South Fork; proceed downstream to Big Island and then proceed west on the trail along No Business Creek to the John Muir Trail; take the John Muir Trail back to Maudes Crack.

Yahoo Falls Loop -- Begin at the parking area at Yahoo Falls; proceed upstream along the Big South Fork to Negro Creek; proceed up Negro Creek to the BSFNRRRA boundary and stop counting. (The trail continues back to the Yahoo Falls parking area.)

Honey Creek Loop -- Begin at the parking area at the south end of the loop and survey the long loop counterclockwise, excluding the Indian Rockhouse Trail.

Hulings Branch Road/Bear Creek Loop -- From Foster Crossroads go north on Bill Slaven Road to Hulings Branch Road on the left (a poorly marked logging road); begin the transect by proceeding down Hulings Road to the Big South Fork; follow the trail downstream along the east bank of the Big South Fork to Bear Creek; follow the horse trail up Bear Creek to Little Bill Slaven Road and back to Hulings Branch Road.

Big South Fork Transect -- Begin at the north end of the Station Camp parking area on the east side of the Big South Fork; proceed upstream on the trail to the Leatherwood Ford parking area; include the parking area at Leatherwood Ford as part of the transect.

Results

During the survey transects I recorded 78 species of birds, including 36 species of Neotropical migrants (Table 1). An additional 16 (Table 1) species of birds, including five species of Neotropical migrants, were detected within the BSFNRRRA on the same dates as the dates on which the surveys were conducted but not during the surveys. Thirty-four species of Neotropical migrants registered on the survey dates breed within the area, while seven do not.

Some species that I have not listed as Neotropical migrants have been so designated

TABLE 1. Results of Neotropical Migrant Transect Surveys Conducted in the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area during Spring 1994. Species in bold faced type are Neotropical Migrants.

| Survey Site ¹ | BMB | TA | NBC | YF | HC | HBC | BSF |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| State | TN | TN | TN | KY | TN | KY | TN |
| Start and Ending Times Eastern Daylight Time | 1007- 1242 | 0807- 1233 | 0832- 1413 | 0828- 1328 | 0712- 1141 | 0747- 1301 | 0640- 1216 |
| Hours Surveyed | 2.6 | 4.4 | 5.7 | 5.0 | 4.5 | 5.2 | 5.6 |
| Transect Length (km) | 6.4 | 8.8 | 12.0 | 8.0 | 8.0 | 9.6 | 12.0 |
| Transect Length (mi) | 4.0 | 5.5 | 7.5 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 6.0 | 7.5 |
| Observers(s) ² | SJS | SJS RGE | SJS RGE | SJS RGE | SJS RGE | SJS RGE | SJS |
| Date of Survey | 4-16 | 4-25 | 4-30 | 5-05 | 5-10 | 5-13 | 5-25 |
| Great Blue Heron | -- | -- | 1 | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Wood Duck | -- | * | -- | 3 | -- | -- | -- |
| Black Vulture | -- | * | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Turkey Vulture | 3 | 3 | 6 | 1 | 1 | -- | 5 |
| Red-shouldered Hawk | -- | -- | 1 | -- | -- | 1 | 2 |
| Broad-winged Hawk (B*) | ** | -- | * | 1 | -- | * | -- |
| Red-tailed Hawk | -- | -- | 2 | 1 | -- | -- | -- |
| Ruffed Grouse | -- | 1 | 3 | -- | 1 | 3 | 1 |
| Wild Turkey | -- | 1 | * | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Killdeer | -- | -- | -- | -- | * | -- | -- |
| American Woodcock | -- | ** | -- | -- | -- | 1 | 14 |
| Mourning Dove | -- | 1 | -- | * | 1 | -- | 4 |
| Bl.-billed Cuckoo (B*) | -- | -- | -- | * | -- | -- | -- |
| Yel.-billed Cuckoo (B**) | -- | -- | 1 | -- | * | 2 | 18 |
| Chimney Swift (B*) | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 1 | -- |
| Ruby-th. Hummingbird (B*) | -- | -- | 1 | 1 | -- | -- | 2 |
| Belted Kingfisher | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 1 |
| Red-bellied Woodpecker | -- | 5 | -- | 8 | -- | * | 1 |
| Downy Woodpecker | -- | * | 3 | 3 | * | 2 | 8 |
| Hairy Woodpecker | -- | -- | -- | -- | 1 | -- | 2 |
| Northern Flicker | -- | -- | -- | 1 | -- | 1 | -- |
| Pileated Woodpecker | 1 | 9 | 6 | 11 | 4 | 5 | 17 |
| Olive-s. Flycatcher (NB) | -- | -- | -- | * | -- | -- | -- |
| Eastern Wood-Pewee (B*) | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 1 | 1 |
| Acadian Flycatcher (B***) | -- | -- | 4 | 12 | 4 | 15 | 41 |
| Eastern Phoebe | 1 | 6 | 4 | -- | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Gr. Cr. Flycatcher (B*) | -- | -- | 1 | -- | -- | -- | 1 |
| Eastern Kingbird (B*) | -- | -- | -- | -- | * | -- | -- |

| | 4-16 | 4-25 | 4-30 | 5-05 | 5-10 | 5-13 | 5-25 |
|--------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| N. R. -w. Swallow (B*) | -- | 4 | 3 | 2 | * | 2 | 2 |
| Barn Swallow (B*) | -- | -- | -- | * | 1 | -- | -- |
| Blue Jay | -- | 4 | * | 3 | 2 | 5 | 12 |
| American Crow | 1 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Carolina Chickadee | 10 | 7 | 16 | 15 | 2 | 12 | 18 |
| Tufted Titmouse | 4 | 4 | 8 | 13 | 7 | 7 | 9 |
| Red-breasted Nuthatch | -- | 1 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| White-breasted Nuthatch | 1 | 4 | 2 | 4 | -- | -- | 1 |
| Carolina Wren | 2 | 2 | 10 | 5 | 3 | 5 | 12 |
| House Wren | -- | 1 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Ruby-crowned Kinglet | * | 6 | 2 | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Blue-gray Gnatcatcher | 4 | 14 | 17 | 10 | 1 | 4 | 14 |
| Eastern Bluebird | -- | -- | -- | * | * | * | -- |
| Swainson's Thrush (NB) | -- | -- | -- | 1 | 1 | 5 | -- |
| Wood Thrush (B**) | -- | 6 | 8 | 19 | -- | 17 | 22 |
| American Robin | * | -- | -- | * | * | * | -- |
| Gray Catbird | -- | -- | -- | -- | * | -- | -- |
| Brown Thrasher | -- | -- | -- | * | * | * | 1 |
| European Starling | * | -- | -- | * | * | * | -- |
| White-eyed Vireo | -- | -- | 3 | 2 | * | -- | -- |
| Solitary Vireo | -- | 2 | 2 | -- | 1 | 4 | -- |
| Yellow-thr. Vireo (B*) | 1 | 3 | 4 | 1 | -- | 2 | 3 |
| Red-eyed Vireo (B****) | 1 | 52 | 97 | 105 | 58 | 112 | 199 |
| Blue-w. Warbler (B*) | -- | 1 | -- | 1 | -- | -- | -- |
| Tennessee Warbler (NB) | -- | -- | -- | -- | 1 | -- | -- |
| Northern Parula (B**) | 3 | 14 | 22 | 10 | 2 | 3 | 13 |
| Chest. -s. Warbler (B*) | -- | -- | 1 | * | -- | -- | -- |
| Cape May Warbler (NB) | -- | -- | -- | -- | * | -- | -- |
| Yellow-rumped Warbler | -- | 1 | * | * | -- | -- | -- |
| Bl.-thr. Green Warbler (B****) | 17 | 41 | 54 | 35 | 25 | 48 | 56 |
| Yellow-throated Warbler | 9 | 4 | 11 | 9 | 3 | 6 | 10 |
| Pine Warbler | 2 | 4 | 2 | * | 1 | 1 | -- |
| Prairie Warbler (B*) | -- | -- | 1 | 1 | * | -- | 1 |
| Blackpoll Warbler (NB) | -- | -- | 1 | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Cerulean Warbler (B*) | -- | -- | -- | 3 | -- | -- | -- |
| Black-and-White Warbler | 5 | 31 | 25 | 5 | 7 | 14 | 15 |
| American Redstart (B*) | -- | * | 1 | 7 | * | -- | -- |
| Prothonotary Warbler (B*) | -- | -- | -- | 3 | -- | -- | -- |
| Worm-eating Warbler (B**) | 2 | 7 | 11 | 8 | 13 | 23 | 13 |
| Swainson's Warbler (B*) | -- | -- | -- | -- | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Ovenbird (B****) | 9 | 18 | 41 | 36 | 18 | 27 | 11 |
| L. Waterthrush (B**) | -- | 1 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 11 |
| Kentucky Warbler (B**) | -- | -- | 11 | 7 | -- | -- | 14 |
| Common Yellowthroat | -- | -- | 11 | -- | -- | * | 4 |
| Hooded Warbler (B****) | 10 | 7 | 22 | 19 | 31 | 44 | 14 |
| Canada Warbler (NB) | -- | -- | -- | -- | 1 | -- | -- |

| | 4-16 | 4-25 | 4-30 | 5-05 | 5-10 | 5-13 | 5-25 |
|--------------------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Yellow-br. Chat (B*) | -- | -- | 3 | 1 | 1 | -- | -- |
| Summer Tanager (B*) | -- | -- | -- | 1 | -- | -- | 1 |
| Scarlet Tanager (B****) | 1 | 15 | 25 | 20 | 7 | 22 | 33 |
| Northern Cardinal | -- | 1 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 6 |
| Rose-br. Grosbeak (NB) | -- | -- | 4 | -- | -- | 2 | -- |
| Indigo Bunting (B****) | -- | -- | 27 | 1 | 9 | 17 | 36 |
| Rufous-sided Towhee | -- | 2 | * | 2 | 1 | -- | -- |
| Chipping Sparrow | -- | 1 | -- | * | * | * | -- |
| Song Sparrow | -- | -- | -- | * | -- | -- | 1 |
| Swamp Sparrow | -- | -- | -- | 1 | -- | -- | -- |
| White-throated Sparrow | -- | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | -- | -- |
| Dark-eyed Junco | -- | 2 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Red-winged Blackbird | * | -- | -- | * | * | * | -- |
| Eastern Meadowlark | * | -- | -- | * | * | -- | -- |
| Common Grackle | * | -- | -- | -- | 1 | -- | -- |
| Brown-headed Cowbird | * | -- | -- | * | -- | * | -- |
| Orchard Oriole (B*) | -- | -- | -- | -- | * | -- | -- |
| Northern Oriole (B*) | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | 1 |
| American Goldfinch | -- | 4 | 4 | 7 | 1 | * | 2 |
| House Sparrow | * | -- | -- | -- | * | -- | -- |
| Total Individuals | 87 | 292 | 501 | 412 | 219 | 427 | 648 |
| Total Species | 20 | 40 | 48 | 45 | 37 | 37 | 47 |

¹ BMB = Burnt Mill Bridge Loop; TA = Twin Arches Loop; NBC = No Business Creek Loop; YF = Yahoo Falls Loop; HC = Honey Creek Loop; HBC = Hulings Road/Bear Creek Loop; BSF = Trail on east side of Big South Fork from Station Camp to Leatherwood Ford.

² SJS = Stephen J. Stedman; RGE = Robert G. Emmott.

³ Species recorded within BSFNRRRA on the date indicated but not during survey.

⁴ 3 young present with adult.

B**** = Neotropical migrant that breeds in the area (very large numbers present)

B*** = Neotropical migrant that breeds in the area (large numbers present)

B** = Neotropical migrant

B* = Neotropical migrant that breeds in the area (small numbers present)

NB = Neotropical migrant that does not breed in the area (small numbers present)

by authorities on this topic. I have generally taken a conservative approach in designating a species as a Neotropical migrant, which I define as a species whose population breeds in North America and winters nearly exclusively in Central or South America.

Without exception the Neotropical migrant species present on these spring migration transects in very large, large, and moderately large numbers breed within the BSFNRRRA. One breeding Neotropical migrant (designated B**** in Table 1) was present in very large numbers (100 or more) on one or more transects. Six species (designated B*** in Table 1) were present in large numbers (25 to 99) on one or more transects. Six species (designated B** in Table 1) were present in moderately large numbers (10 to 24) on one or more transects. Twenty-one species of breeding Neotropical migrants (designated B* in Table 1) were detected in small numbers (9 or less) on all transects (or were undetected on the transects but present within the BSFNRRRA on one or more survey dates).

The remaining seven species of Neotropical migrants (designated NB in Table 1) noted during the surveys breed north of, or at higher elevations than, the survey area. These transient Neotropical migrants were detected in small numbers (9 or less) on all transects (or were undetected on the transects but present within the BSFNRRRA on one or more survey dates).

It is noteworthy that few (7) Neotropical migrants that do not breed in the area were recorded during the survey, while many (34) Neotropical migrants that do breed in the area were noted. Furthermore, no Neotropical migrants that do not breed in the area were detected in moderately large, large, or very large numbers during 1994, whereas 38% of Neotropical migrants that do breed in BSFNRRRA were present in those registration categories.

Discussion

The habitat of the BSFNRRRA is clearly attractive to many species of Neotropical migrant birds during spring. Whether the scarcity of Neotropical migrants that do not breed in this area experienced during the 1994 survey generally prevails during spring is unknown. The placement of the BSFNRRRA about midway between the Atlantic and Mississippi flyways may partly explain the paucity of Neotropical migrants that do not breed in the area during spring, as these migrants would tend to be concentrated along the flyways during their northward migration. Furthermore, generally good weather conditions for migration occurred during spring 1994 and may have contributed to the negligible number of registrations of these species.

If Bibby *et al.* (1992) are correct in stating that a minimum of 40 registrations is needed to validate the results of transect surveys, then the relative abundance indices obtained for the less common species of Neotropical migrants in BSFNRRRA may be less accurate than the indices obtained for the more common species.

Acknowledgments

I thank the personnel of the Resource Manager's Office at Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area for their assistance in making this project possible. In particular, Robert Emmolt offered advice regarding the most suitable transect routes to cover during this project and provided logistical support when the transects were run.

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Tennessee Technological University, Department of English, Box 5053, Cookeville, TN 38505.

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY SPRING MEETING

April 28-30, 1995

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its Spring meeting at Mammoth Cave National Park April 28-30, 1995. Vice president Wayne Mason presided at the Friday evening program, which was attended by 54 people. Fred Busroe, the Compiler of Seasonal Reports for *The Kentucky Warbler*, requested accuracy in reporting sightings, and stressed the use of the K.O.S. form for extraordinary observations when reporting unusual sightings. Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. discussed possible changes in the Kentucky endangered species list by the Nature Preserves Commission; the list was first published in 1981 and updates in 1986 and 1991. He also discussed efforts to preserve Blanton Forest in Harlan County and showed photographs of some of the spectacular scenery. Dr. Herbert Clay entertained members with a short program of some of the interesting oceanic birds he had photographed on field trips to Bonaventure Island and Machais Seal Island. Lee McNeely showed photographs of birds observed in coastal California. Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. shared photographs of Mute Swans, Pacific Loons, and a petrel. Following an interesting evening program, Wayne Mason ended the evening meeting with comments about Saturday morning field trips. A social hour followed the meeting.

Members met at 8:00 A.M. Saturday and departed on several field trips. It was a beautiful sunny day, and 96 species were recorded within the park. The K.O.S. board met at 3:30 P.M. for a lengthy business session. President Herbert Clay presided at the evening meeting. He announced that the name of the Avian Research Fund was being changed to the Burt Monroe Jr. Avian Research Fund. Wayne Mason gave an informative program on Changes in Populations of Selected Bird Species within Mammoth Cave National Park. Park Naturalist, Rick Olsen, expressed appreciation for our ornithological studies in Mammoth Cave National Park.

The weather on Sunday morning was cool and rainy, and most members made an early departure for home.

-- Herb Shadowen, Recording Secretary

ATTENDANCE AT THE SPRING MEETING

BEREA: Art and Tina Ricketts

BOWLING GREEN: Clint Blankenship, Lester Doyle, Blaine Ferrell, Wayne Mason, Alice Rowe, Nancy and Marvin Russell, Herb and Jacky Shadowen

BURLINGTON: Kathy, Joe and Joey Caminiti, Lee and Lynda McNeely

CADIZ: Willard Gray

CARLISLE: Wendell and Ginny Kingsolver

DANVILLE: Virginia and Neil Eklund, Michael and LeAnn Hamm

ELIZABETHTOWN: Tony and Theresa Smith

FALLS OF ROUGH: Herb and Kathryn Clay, Joyce L. Porter

LEXINGTON: Phyllis Deal, E. Marie Sutton, Jim and Gerry Williams

LOUISVILLE: Pat and Jane Bell, Donna Coates, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Kay and Jim Parker, Anne Stamm

MACEO: M. Neal Hayden, A.L. and Millie Powell

MORGANTOWN: Carroll and Doris Tichenor

MOREHEAD: Fred Busroe

OWENSBORO: Margaret Craig, Mary Lydia Greenwell, Marilee Thompson

PADUCAH: Bernice Caddell

RICHMOND: Pete and Brenda Thompson

RUSSELLVILLE: Mark, Steven, Andrew, Tommie, and Gail Bennett

STANLEY: Tom and Anna Lee Stevenson

UTICA: Tony and Brenda Eaden

BORDEN, IN: Scottie and Chester Theiss

BIRDS OBSERVED AT THE SPRING MEETING, 1995

Birds observed on Friday and Saturday on field trips at Mammoth Cave National Park and additional species observed at the temporary lakes, Bowling Green (indicated by "r") were: Pied-billed Grebe, Wood Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Wild Turkey, Killdeer, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Banded Owl, Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Acadian Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, House Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Swainson's Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, American Pipit, Loggerhead Shrike, European Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Palm Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, Black-and-White Warbler, American Redstart, Worm-eating Warbler, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Northern Oriole, American Goldfinch, and House Sparrow for a total of 96 species. A Golden-winged Warbler was added on the Sunday morning field trip, bringing the species total to 97. With additional birds observed at the Temporary Lakes, the species total reached 112 species.

FIELD NOTE

Indigo Buntings, *Passerina cyanea*, Nesting in Cornfields

The Indigo Bunting, *Passerina cyanea*, has a well-defined breeding habitat. Mengel (1965) describes it as " forest openings, forest edge, or shrub-grown old fields. Payne (1992) gives a similar description and adds that they are generally absent in intensively cultivated and grazed areas.

The University of Kentucky agricultural experiment farms at Lexington consist of heavily grazed pastures and cultivated fields. Fence rows are clean, and stream sides are mowed to the water's edge. There is almost no brush or shrubbery. The general appearance is an area certainly unsuitable for Indigo Buntings.

In 1990 we first noticed Indigo Buntings moving onto the farms in a close association with cornfields. By 1993 they had become abundant, with at least one territorial male associated with each of the more than a dozen such fields at the farms.

The birds begin to appear in the last week of June. Males sing on territory throughout July to the middle of August. Apparently they enter the corn for a second nesting. Mengel (1965) wrote that the first nestings in Kentucky peak May 21 - June 10, and the second nestings peak July 1 - 10. The young corn at the University farms is obviously not suitable for the first nesting.

At the farms singing perches are scarce. At several cornfields the males sang only from power lines and corn tassels. One field where we made observations in 1993 was 400 m by 80 m (3.2 hectares) with a farm road and power line along one long side. Throughout July and into August five males had territories in the corn and along the wires. Each would sing from the wires. If flushed, a male would fly out over the cornfield, sometimes alighting on a tassel, but usually circled back to the wire. Each male seemed to claim a 10m section of wire. The closest neighboring territory on a wire was about 40 m.

We spent 15 hours systematically working corn rows searching for nests. The corn was remarkably dense, and, except for patches where the herbicides had missed, weed free. On July 19 we found a nest with three eggs. It was 9 rows into the field in a spindly *Amaranthus* plant heavily shaded by the corn. The nest was tied to the axils of two leaves one meter above the ground. In spite of our efforts and concentration of searches on areas where pairs of buntings were scolding us, this was the only nest found.

From the number of birds observed the population associated with corn seems to be increasing. There is reason to speculate that nesting may be more successful than in typical habitat. The corn is so dense that it appears unlikely that cowbirds, which Mengel (1965) lists as parasitizing 32.5 % of bunting nests, would parasitize the nests. Several potential nest predators, such as crows and jays, are probably deterred by the dense corn. Black rat snakes may be less likely to be in the cornfields than in typical habitat. Raccoons, however, are regular visitors, and would likely find some bunting nests. We found plentiful raccoon sign in the cornfields, and when the corn fills out in August raccoons feed heavily upon it.

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- Payne, Robert B. 1992. Indigo Bunting. In The Birds of North America. No. 4 (A. Poole, P. Stettenheim and F. Gill, Eds). Philadelphia: The Academy of Natural Sciences; Washington D. C.; The American Ornithologists' Union.
- Wayne H. Davis and Kelly Mack, School of Biological Sciences, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506

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. Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. 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.

Kentucky Birds Record Committee

Lee McNeely is the new secretary of the Kentucky Birds Record Committee (KBRC). Please send all reports and documentation of unusual sightings that need to be considered by the KBRC to Lee at P.O. Box 463, Burlington, Kentucky 41005

Field Trips

There will be a field trip to the Falls of the Ohio on August 26, 1995 from 8:30 a.m. to noon to look for shorebirds and herons. Participants should meet at Big Four Railroad Bridge in Clarksville, Indiana at the dam. The leader of the trip, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., can be reached at (502) 426-8549. Bring shoes appropriate for wading.