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The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

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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.

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THE COVER

Thanks go to our staff artist Ray Harm for this excellent painting of Wood Ducks (*Aix sponsa*).

SEASONAL REPORT - THE WINTER SEASON 1 DECEMBER 1995 TO 29 FEBRUARY 1996

Weather conditions during the period can be described as a series of extremes. During January the "Blizzard of 1996" covered the area with up to 18 inches of snow. The first week of February near record lows (-20° F.) occurred, while several areas of the state set or tied records for the lowest maximum temperature. This trend was followed by setting record highs (mid 70's) on 26 and 27 February. January and February precipitation was above normal in the Louisville area. The anticipated "invasion" of northern species was spotty, however, a few rarities helped make the season interesting. Several unusual species of gulls and waterfowl were seen in western Kentucky and along the Ohio River.

Abbreviations - BBC = Beckham Bird Club; Bel = Bellview, Campbell County; Ber = Bernheim Forest, Bullitt County; BPS = Big Pond Sanctuary, Grayson County; BRL = Big Reedy Lake, Grayson County; Bur = Burlington, Boone County; Can = Caneyville Reservoir, Grayson County; CKWA = Central Kentucky Wildlife Management Area, Madison County; CP = Cherokee Park, Louisville, Jefferson County; CPL = City Park Lakes, Madisonville, Hopkins County; CRL = Cave Run Lake, Rowan County; EBPP = East Bend Power Plant, Boone County; Falls = Falls of the Ohio, Louisville, Jefferson County; FtB = Fort Boonesboro State Park, Madison County; Fre = Frederick's Landing, Campbell County; Ghe = Ghent, Boone County; GRL = Green River Lake, Taylor County; Heb = Hebron, Boone County; Hic = South Hickman Bottoms, Fulton County; HWMA = Homestead Wildlife Management Area, Ohio County; Isl = Island Lake, Ohio County; LenP = Lentz's Pond, Hopkins Creek Jefferson County; Lei = Leitchfield, Grayson County; Lex = Lexington, Fayette County; Mad = Madisonville, Hopkins County; LPew = Lake Pewee, Madisonville, Hopkins County; MCFH = Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County; MCNP = Mammoth Cave National Park, Edmonson County; MD = Markland Dam, Gallatin County; Mel = Meldahl Dam, Bracken County; Pil = Pilots Knob, Madison County; Pros = Prospect, Jefferson County; Red = Red River Gorge, Powell County; RRRSP = Rough River State Park, Grayson County; Rou = Falls of Rough, Grayson County; SC = Short Creek, Grayson County; Ten = Ten Broeck Subdivision, Louisville, Jefferson County; Tow = Towhead Island, Louisville, Jefferson County; TP = Taylor Park, Campbell County; War = Warsaw, Gallatin County; Wat = Watertown Yacht Club, Campbell County.

PIED-BILLED GREBE — 27 on December 16 at Pew (JWH); 17 on December 27 at Tow (JB, PB); 7 on January 13 at MD (LMc); 35 on January 14 at Tow (JB, PB).

HORNED GREBE — One at TP on February 3 and one on the Ohio River, Bel, on February 4 (FR).

WHITE PELICAN - One on December 27 and January 14 at Tow (JB, PB).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT — Two on January 14 at Mel (FR).

GREAT BLUE HERON — One on December 9 at Isl (JP, MKH); one on December 16 and two on January 16 at LPew (JWH); two on December 27 and 6 on January 13 at Falls (JB, PB); one on January 29 in Hart County (MS); 15 on February 8 at LenP (FM); one on February 19 at Can (MKH); normal numbers, 15 to 35 at MCFH during the season (FB).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON — One on January 1 at Tow (JB, PB).

TUNDRA SWAN — One adult at MCFH on January 16 (FB, LK); one on January 20 at MCFH (FB).

TRUMPETER SWAN — One on January 20 and 29 in Hart County (MS, SK, RS). This bird's band number was traced to be one from a restocking program in Michigan, interesting but not "countable".

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE — Sightings were reported from across the state. One on December 31 at MCFH (AB, FB); 1 on January 5 at MCFH (FB, LK); 1 on January 17 at MCFH (FB); one at MCFH on February 23 (FB, LK).

SNOW GOOSE — Two were present at Heb from December 6 to 10 (LMc); one immature (blue phase) on January 20 and 27 in Hart County (MS); one on January 16 and 17 at MCFH (FB, LK); 1200 (900 white + 300 blue morphs) on February 22 at Hic (CP).

CANADA GOOSE — 500 at Isl on December 9 and 100 same area on February 18 (MHK, JP); 30 to 35 on January 2 and 11 in Hart County (MS); 20+ on January 15 at MCNP (MS); 2000 on January 16 at MCFH, this included the resident flock of Giant Canadas, however this was above normal numbers; 105 on January 16 at LPew (JWH); 200+ on February 6 on Ohio River (FM); 800+ at Hic on February 22 (CP).

WOOD DUCK — Three at Tow on December 27 (JB, PB); 10 on January 15 at MCNP (MS).

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK — Two on December 24 at Wat (FR); one on January 1 at TP (FR); 20 on January 15 at MCNP (MS); 17 on February 19 at BRL (MKH, JP).

MALLARD — 125 on December 9 at Isl (BPB, MKH, JP); 30 on December 24 at Wat (FR); 50 on January 15 at MCNP (MS); 34 on January 16 at LPew (JWH); 10 on February 18 at Isl (MKH, JP); 1000 on February 22 at Hic (CP); 6 (3 pairs) also on February 22 at Ten (AS).

NORTHERN PINTAIL — 11 on February 22 at Hic (CP).

NORTHERN SHOVELER — 15 on February 22 at Hic (CP).

GADWALL — 1 on December 9 at Isl (BPB); 3 on January 13 at Falls (JB, PB); 5 on January 15 and 11 on January 22 at CPL (JWH); 20 on February 22 at Hic (CP); 5 on February 23 at CRL (FB).

AMERICAN WIGEON — 1 on December 9 at Isl (BPB); one on December 14 and 8 on December 29 with 6 on January 15 and 12 on January 22 at CPL (JWH); 20 on February 22 at Hic (CP); 6 on February 23 at CRL (FB).

CANVASBACK — One on December 14 and 4 on January 22 at CPL, also 6 at LPew on December 16 (JWH); 8 on December 27 and 3 on January 13 at the ORB with 19 on January 13 at Tow (JB, PB); 10 above MD on January 13 (LMc); 105 on January 14 at Mel (FR); one female on February 18 at small lake west of Isl (MKH, JP).

REDHEAD — 17 on January 15 at CPL (JWH).

RING-NECKED DUCK — 34 on December 14 at CPL (JWH); 12 on December 27 at Tow (JB, PB).

GREATER SCAUP — Six on February 19 at BRL (MKH, JP).

LESSER SCAUP — One to two during most of the season at TP (FR).

OLDSQUAW — One at TP on December 29 and 30 as well as on January 1, 2, and 3 (FR).

SURF SCOTER — One immature on December 17, 21 and 23 at Wat (FR); one at Tow on January 1 (JB, PB).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER — One on December 27 at Tow (JB, PB).

COMMON GOLDENEYE — One to two at TP during most of the season; 86 at Mel on February 9 (FR).

BUFFLEHEAD — 8 on January 13 at Tow (JB, PB); fairly widespread across the area from northern Kentucky (FR) to west central Kentucky (JWH); normal numbers at CRL and MCFH (FB).

HOODED MERGANSER — 7 on December 19, 3 on December 27, and 5 on January 13 all at Tow (JB, PB); 12 to 15 at MCFH and CRL on February 22 and 23 (FB).

COMMON MERGANSER — One on January 13 at Tow (JB, PB); two on February 9 at MCFH (FB, LK); two on February 19 at BRL (MKH, JP); several observed along Ohio River in northern Kentucky (FR).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER — One on December 13 and one on December 23 at Tow (JB, PB); a single male on January 13 at Mar (LMc); also numerous observations along Ohio River in northern Kentucky with one at TP most of the season (FR).

RUDDY DUCK — 8 on December 16 at LPew (JWH).

BLACK VULTURE — Four on December 20 in eastern Jefferson County (JB, PB); 12 on January 12 at Lake Cumberland Marina (SK); 4 on February 24 and 2 on February 28 over eastern Jefferson County (FM); a number again wintered at Ghe and EBPP (LMc); 60 to 75 during December and January on or near BPS (KC).

TURKEY VULTURE — Estimated 400 to 500 during December and January on or near BPS, most left during February (KC); 50 in Red on February 24 (FW).

BALD EAGLE — One immature on December 9 at Mel (FR); one adult on December 16 in northern Gallatin County (LMc); one immature at MCFH on December 27 (AB, FB); 1 adult on January 16 at CRL (FB, LK); 2 adults and 2 immatures on February 9 at MCFH (FB, LK); 3 adults and 3 immatures at MCFH on February 16 (FB, LK); 3 adults on February 22 at Hic (CP).

NORTHERN HARRIER — One male on January 15 near Bowling Green and one female in Barren County on January 15 (MS); 1 male on January 16 near LPew (JWH); 1 male in a field near Mad on January 26 (DH); 1 male in Hart County on January 27 (MS); 35+ on January 28 during the BBC trip to Ohio County (KC); 7 near Isl on February 18 (MKH, JP); one on February 26 at CKWA (WD); 5 on February 22 at Hic (CP).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK — One on December 2 at feeder in Bel (FR); one in Hart County on December 15, January 7, January 26, and February 5 (MS); 1 on January 6 at Lex (WD); one on February 18 at SC (JP); one on February 29 at Lancaster (WD).

COOPER'S HAWK — One feeding on a European Starling near Walmart, Morehead on December 26 (FB); 2 on February 22 at Hic (CP).

Red-shouldered Hawk — One in Bullitt County on February 4 (JB, PB).

RED-TAILED HAWK — Two immature Krider's Hawks on January 28 during BBC trip in Ohio County (KC); 2 on February 24 at Pil (FR).

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK — Six (3 dark phase and 3 light phase) on December 9 at Isl (BPB, MKH, JP); 30 (eight dark phase) were seen in Ohio County during the BBC trip on January 28 (KC); 6 (3 light phase and 3 dark phase) on February 18 at Isl area (MKH, JP).

GOLDEN EAGLE — One on February 4 at Ber (JB, PB).

AMERICAN KESTREL — 11 between Murray and Hic on February 22 (CP).

MERLIN — One on December 30 during the mid-winter count at HWMA (HC, KC).

WILD TURKEY — Five at CRL on January 13 (FB); 35 on February 4 at Ber (JB, PB); 21 on February 18 near Western Kentucky Parkway, Ohio County (MKH, JP).

AMERICAN COOT — 143 on December 16 at LPew and 17 on January 15 at CPL (JHW).

SANDHILL CRANE — 24 on December 9 at Greater Cincinnati Airport, Boone County (LMc); 150 on December 20 from I-71 & I-264, Jefferson County (JB, PB); 23 on December 4, 121 on December 8, 140 on December 15, 250+ on February 24, 27 on February 25 and 50+ on February 26 all in Hart County (MS); 46 over Lei on February 25 (JP); 100+ on February 26 over Pro (FM); over 1000 passed over Hart County on February 24 and 25 (SK).

KILLDEER — 9 on February 22 at Hic (CL); one at RRSP on February 23 (JP).

COMMON SNIBE — 6 on January 6 at University of Kentucky Farm, Lex (WD); 6 at BRL on February 19 (MKH, JP); 6 on February 22 at Hic (CP).

AMERICAN WOODCOCK — Six on February 11 in BPS area (KC); first arrived in Boone County on February 24 (LMc); one to three doing mating flight on February 25 to 28, SC (JP); 2 displaying on February 26 at Wat, and 2 on February 27 at Fre (FR).

BONAPARTE'S GULL — 20 on December 9 at Mel and 4 at TP on December 18 (FR); numbers at MCFH were below normal, only one seen on December 27 (FB); 6 on January 12 at Lake Cumberland Marina (SK).

RING-BILLED GULL — 100 on December 17 and 50 on December 20 at TP (FR); 3 on December 22, 2 on January 2, and 1 on January 3, all observations in Warren County (MS); approximately 200 at MCFH on December 27 (FB); up to 2500 during the season at Mel (FR).

HERRING GULL — 91 on December 16 at LPew (JWH); one on December 27 at MCFH (FB); 3 at MCFH on January 5 (FB, LK); several individual sightings along the Ohio River in northern Kentucky (FR).

EASTERN SCREECH-OWL — One (red phase) on January 9 in Hart County (MS); one on February 4 at Ber (JB, PB).

GREAT HORNED OWL — Two on January 1 in Hart County (MS); one on a nest at north end of Isl on February 18 (MKH, JP).

SHORT-EARED OWL — One at TP and one at Wat, both seen on January 12 (FR); one in eastern Jefferson County on January 13 (JB, PB); one on February 18 near Isl (MKH, JP).

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER — Two on December 15 in Hart County (MS); very few observations this season in Calloway and Fulton Counties (CP).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER — One on January 2 in Hart County and one on January 15 at MCNP (MS); two in Jefferson County on January 13 and two at Ber on February 4 (JB, PB); two all season at BPS (KC).

PILEATED WOODPECKER — Two on February 24 at FtB (FW).

EASTERN PHOEBE — One on February 19 at BRL (JP); one on February 25 at CP (JB, PB).

HORNED LARK — 25 on December 20 and 60 on January 6 in eastern Jefferson County (JB, PB).

WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH — Two on February 24 at FtB (FR).

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH — One at feeder December 24 near SC (JP); six on January 9 at Ber (JB, PB); one on January 15 at MCNP (MS); a single bird was present at a Bur feeder throughout the season (LMC); one present at a feeder near Morehead all season (DbH).

BROWN CREEPER — One on January 15 at MCNP (MS); 1 on January 25 in Lex (WD).

HOUSE WREN — One on January 1 at Ber (JB, PB).

WINTER WREN — One on January 15 at MCNP (MS); one on February 18 at Ber (JB, PB).

Few reports of Kinglets during the season.

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET — One on January 1 at Southgate Cemetery, Campbell County (FR).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET — One on December 11 at Bel (FR); one on December 2 at GRL (JB, PB).

AMERICAN ROBIN — A few remained all season at Ten but 25 were seen on January 29 with 50 on January 31 and February 19. (AS).

HERMIT THRUSH — One on December 30 at HWMA and one same date at BPS (KC); one on January 15 at MCNP (MS); one at Ber on February 18 (JB, PB).

BROWN THRASHER — One at feeder from mid-January to mid-February at Pro (FM); one at feeder on ten occasions during mid-January and mid-February at Ten (AS); one on February 14 at BPS (KC).

CEDAR WAXWING — 250 on January 9 at Ber (JB, PB); 25 to 30 at BPS during December and January (KC).

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE — One in Grayson County on December 10 and 14 (JP); one on January 1 and January 29 in Hart County (MS); 3 on January 28 in Ohio County during BBC trip (KC).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER — Two on February 4 at Ber (JB, PB); six to eight birds during the season at BPS (KC); 2 at FtB on February 24 (FR).

PINE WARBLER — Three (2 males, 1 female) on February 11 at BPS (KC); one at suet feeder on February 20 at Mad (JWH).

NORTHERN CARDINAL — Total of 46 on February 2 at feeder in Mad (JWH).

RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE — One male on February 23 at Ten (AS).

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW — One on January 4 at feeder in Mad (JWH); present in good numbers (48) on the War CBC on December 16 and 104 December 30 during the Bur CBC (LMc); 25 on December 20 near the Oldham/Jefferson County line (JB, PB).

SONG SPARROW — Lower numbers this winter, only one to two were at feeder in Ten (AS).

SWAMP SPARROW — 1 on December 30 for the Rou mid-winter count (JP).

FOX SPARROW — One in Bullitt County on February 4 (JB, PB); one on February 28 and 29 at feeder in Mad (JH); one all season at BPS (KC).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW — 15+ birds during the season at BPS (KC); fewer in number this season at Ten (AS).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW — One present all season at BPS (KC).

DARK-EYED JUNCO — Fewer in number this season in Ten (AS); 133 on December 30 for the Rou mid-winter bird count (JP); numbers were above normal in the CRL area (FB).

LAPLAND LONGSPUR — One on December 24 and three on January 6 in eastern Jefferson County (JB, PB).

SNOW BUNTING — Only one reported on January 6 in eastern Jefferson County (JB, PB).

EASTERN MEADOWLARK — 8 on December 9 in eastern Jefferson County (JB, PB).

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD — 10 to 15 on February 23 and 25 at Pro (FM).

HOUSE FINCH — Numbers were below normal at Ten during the season (AS).

PURPLE FINCH — 8 present at BPS all season (KC); about 20 at feeder in Han during the season (BW); 4 at feeder on February 3 SC (JP); 30 in Bullitt County on February 4 (JB, PB); no observations reported from the CRL area (FB).

PINE SISKIN — Four on December 7 at feeder in Bel (FR); one on January 1 and 3 on February 4 at Ber (JB, PB); birds present in small numbers at Bur feeders (LMc).

EVENING GROSBEAK — A flock, started with 3 birds had increased to 75 by January 21 then declined to 25 birds by the end of February at feeder in Munfordville (SK); 20+ on January 21 at feeder in Han (BW); one on February 23 at feeder in SC (JP); flock of 8 to 10 at feeder near Morehead (ASu).

OBSERVATIONS SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW BY THE KENTUCKY RECORDS COMMITTEE.

RED-NECKED GREBE — One on the Ohio River above Markland Dam, Gallatin County on December 16 observed during the Warsaw CBC by Lee McNeely.

THAYER'S GULL — One at Markland Dam, Gallatin County on December 16 submitted by Lee McNeely.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE — One observed at Markland Dam, Gallatin County

on December 16 by Lee McNeely; also observed on December 24 by Jane and Pat Bell.

SWAINSON'S THRUSH — One recorded on the Beckham Bird Club's CBC (observed by Fred Mansmith and Win Achars on December 17).

OVENBIRD — One wintered near Covington, Kenton County. Photographed by Sherry Carran.

Contributors - Jane Bell (JB), Pat Bell (PB), Fred Busroe (FB), Herbert Clay (HC), Kathryn Clay (KC), Darrel Hancock (DH), James W. Hancock (JWH), Mary K. Harrel (MKH), Debbie Howes (DbH), Steve Kistler (SK), Fred Mansmith (FM), Lee McNeely (LMc), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB), Clell Peterson (CP), Joyce Porter (JP), Frank Renfrow (FR), Anne Stamm (AS), Mitchell Sturgeon (MS), Randell Sullivan (RS), Al Surmont (ASu), Bonnie West (BW).

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

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY SPRING MEETING

APRIL 26-28, 1996

The Kentucky Ornithological Society held its spring meeting at Lake Malone State Park April 26-28, 1996. President Wayne Mason presided at the Friday evening program. Dr. Wendell Kingsolver welcomed newcomers to the KOS meeting.

Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. showed slides of gulls he had taken this past winter at the Falls of the Ohio, Louisville. The pictures included the Common Black-headed Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Black-legged Kittiwake, California Gull, Ivory Gull, Trumpeter Swan (in Munfordville), and a Tundra Swan.

Lee McNeely spoke about the North American migration counts to be conducted on the second Saturday in May. He then showed slides of his trip to Whitefish Point, Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Birds he saw included Loons, White-winged Scoters, and Ruddy Turnstones. In the evening, migrant hawks and owls were seen along side roads.

Ginny Kingsolver showed her slides of Corkscrew Swamp, Florida. It is an 11,000 acre refuge containing cyprus, virginia woods, and Wood Storks. She talked about the restoration of the boardwalk and showed pictures of ibis, alligators, storks, and night-herons.

Following this interesting meeting, Wayne Mason announced the Saturday morning field trips to the Lake Malone area and to the Peabody Coal Mine area. The weather turned out to be cool and clear.

The John Cheek collection of books were made available for viewing and purchase at the end of the meeting. A social hour followed the meeting.

Angie Machniak presented the Saturday evening program on her Long-eared Owl research at Eastern Kentucky University. She shared her findings of the diet of Short- and Long-eared owls (primarily prairie voles).

The field trips Sunday morning were to the picnic area of the park and to the Peabody coal field of Muhlenburg and Ohio counties. Sunday's weather was overcast with periodic rain. A total of 117 species was observed during the field trips.

The fall meeting will be held at Ken-Lake Resort Park, October 4-6, 1996.

ATTENDANCE AT THE FALL MEETING

- BEREA: Art Ricketts and Tina Ricketts
BOWLING GREEN: Lester Doyle, Blaine Ferrell, Elizabeth Ferrell, Priscilla Ferrell, Mr. and Mrs. Don Freeman, Wayne Mason, David Roemer, Alice Rowe, Marvin Russell, and Nancy Russell
BROWDER: Preston Forsythe and Shari Forsythe
BURLINGTON: Lee McNeely
CADIZ: Millard Gray
CARLISLE: Ginny Kingsolver and Wendell Kingsolver
DANVILLE: Ginny Eklund and Neil Eklund
ELIZABETHTOWN: Theresa Smith and Tony Smith
FALLS OF ROUGH: Herbert Clay, Kathryn Clay, and Joyce Porter
GILBERTSVILLE: Rowena Cary
LEXINGTON: Gerry Williams, Jim Williams
LOUISVILLE: Angie Machniak, Doxie Noonan, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Kay Parker, Anne Stamm
MOREHEAD: Fred Busroe
MORGANTOWN: Carroll Tichenor and Doris Tichenor
OWENSBORO: Margaret Craig, Nina O'Hearn, Lewis M. Kay, Marilee Thompson, Wendell Thompson, and Bill Tyler
PADUCAH: Bernice (Mrs. Damon) Caddell
RUSSELLVILLE: Andrea Bennett and Mark Bennett
STANLEY: Anna Lee Stevenson and Tom Stevenson
DYERSBURG, TN: Betty Leggett and Ken Leggett

BIRDS OBSERVED AT THE FALL MEETING, 1995

Birds observed on Friday and Saturday field trips at Lake Malone State Park and Peabody Coal Company lands in Muhlenburg County were Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Green-backed Heron, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, Sora, American Coot, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Barred Owl, Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Eastern Phoebe, Great-crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Horned Lark, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Bank Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray

Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Veery, Swainson's Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, European Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Palm Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Louisiana Waterthrush, Kentucky Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, Yellow-breasted Chat, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Blue Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Rufous-sided Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Grasshopper Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Rusty Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Northern (Baltimore) Oriole, Purple Finch, House Finch, American Goldfinch, and House Sparrow for a total of 117 species.

FIELD NOTE

A Unique Nest Site for Barn Owls

While conducting field work for the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission during the summer of 1994, I found a unique nest of a Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*). I was searching for a cave entrance along the Barren River, about two miles east of Holland, Allen County on July 9, 1994. While investigating a rockhouse in a limestone cliff line, I flushed a single Barn Owl that was roosting on a ledge near the ceiling of this large, cave-like room. On the floor of the rockhouse were numerous droppings, pellets, and feathers, indicating that the site was used regularly. I visited this site again on July 12, 1994, and upon entering the rockhouse, the Barn Owl flushed again. This time it flew to a ledge in the back of the room, and alighted for a moment before flying out the entrance and across the river. The action of the bird landing at the back of the rockhouse caused at least one or two additional birds to call from another location within the room. The hissing calls were unmistakably begging calls of young, but despite my best attempts to locate their source, I was unable to find them. There were several inaccessible ledges along and near the ceiling of this large room that was at least 20 feet tall and irregularly 10-30 feet in diameter. The adult bird's landing in the back of the rockhouse apparently fooled the young into thinking they were about to be fed, causing them to give their begging calls.

This observation apparently represents the first report of Barn Owls using openings in cliff lines for nesting in Kentucky. Harrison (1975) notes the use of abandoned mine shafts for nesting, and Marti (1992) includes cliffs, rock outcrops, and caves among natural nest sites. Mengel (1965) noted few details concerning nest sites in Kentucky, and all references to the use of natural sites that I could find in the literature for Kentucky involved tree cavities.

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- Mengel, Robert M. 1965. The birds of Kentucky. American Ornithologists' Union Monograph No. 3. The Allen Press, Lawrence, KS.
- BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR., Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, 801 Schenkel Lane, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601.

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 Burt L. Monroe, Jr. 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. Three grants have recently been funded.

K.O.S. Field Trip

Saturday and Sunday, 24-25 August, 1996 Jeff Wilson will lead our group to the Memphis Tennessee Water Works and other places in a search for shorebirds. During the heat of the day on Saturday, we will meet indoors for lunch and study the shorebirds we will see. Marilee Thompson is the organizer. For complete information send a SASE to Marilee 2443 Old Kentucky 144, Owensboro, Kentucky 42303.

Kentucky Bird Records Committee

Rare bird sightings should be well documented and the documentation should be sent to Lee McNeely, Secretary of the KBRC, for consideration by the committee.