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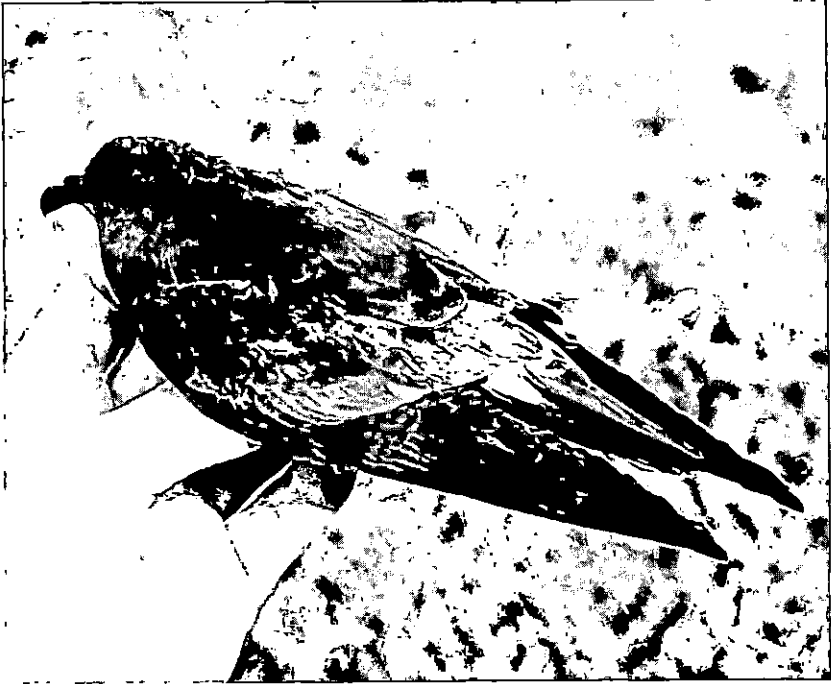
The Kentucky Warbler

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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.

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THE COVER

Thanks go to Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. for this photograph of a Band-rumped Storm-Petrel, *Oceanodroma castro* (See Field Note).

THE SPRING SEASON - 1996

FRED M. BUSROE

The spring season was very wet with some areas of the state having well above average rainfall. Temperatures were on the cool side with snow fall in some areas on April 6th and 9th. Freezing temperatures were recorded during the second week of May. Several strong storms moved through the state with Bullitt and Anderson counties having tornadoes on May 29th.

Migrant species movement was fair. The weather fronts would cause a buildup of birds in some areas while other areas would be deficient. Several unusual species were reported from western Kentucky. There were widespread reports of larger than normal numbers of Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Evening Grosbeaks.

Abbreviations - AJP = A. J. Jolly Park, Campbell County; BWMA = Ballard Wildlife Management Area, Ballard County; BarD = Barkley Dam, Lyon County; Ber = Bernheim Forest, Bullitt County; Bel = Bellevue, Campbell County; BBSP = Big Bone Lick State Park, Boone County; Bsf = Big South Fork National Recreation Area, McCreary County; BBW = Bowling Boulevard Wetlands, Jefferson County; BNP = Beargrass Nature Preserve, Jefferson County; Cad = Cadiz, Trigg County; CEL = Camp Ernst Lake, Boone County; Chan = Chaney Lake, Warren County; CL#1 = City Lake # 1, Madisonville, Hopkins County; CL#4 = City Lake #4, Madisonville, Hopkins County; Doz = Dozier Lake, Hopkins County; EBP = East Bend Power Plant, Boone County; Elk = Elk Creek, Hopkins County; FL = Frederick's Landing, Campbell County; GPP = Ghent Power Plant, Carrol County; Har = Hart County; Han = Hanson, Hopkins County; Hic = Hickman, Fulton County; JC = Jonathan Creek, Marshall County; Ken = Kentucky Lake, Marshall County; KD = Kentucky Dam, Marshall County; LBL = Land Between the Lakes; Lau = Laurel Lake, Laurel County; Len = Lentz's Pond, Jefferson County; LC = Lick Creek, Boone County; LPew = Lake Pewee, Madisonville, Hopkins County; LWB = Louisville Water Company Basins, Jefferson County; Mad = Madisonville, Hopkins County; Mark = Markland Dam, Gallatin County; McEl = McElroy Lake, Warren County; MCFH = Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County; MCNP = Mammoth Cave National Park, Edmonson County; Mel = Meldahl Dam, Bracken County; Muh = Muhlenberg County; OLL = Outer Loop Landfill, Jefferson County; Pet = Petersburg, Boone County; Ple = Pleasant Hill, Mercer County; RRG = Red River Gorge, Powell County; Rab = Rabbit Hash, Boone County; RRNC = Raven Run Nature Center, Fayette County; Sil = Silver Grove, Campbell County; Sle = Sledd Creek Embayment, Kentucky Lake, Marshall County; Slou = Slough Wildlife Management Area, Henderson County; Tay = Taylor Park, Campbell County; Ten = Ten Broeck Subdivision, Louisville; UK = University of Kentucky Farm, Fayette County; WYC = Watertown Yacht Club, Campbell County.

COMMON LOON — One on 6 April at CEL (LMc); one on 17 May at KD (CP) and one at MCFH (FB).

PIED-BILLED GREBE — Two on 3 March at WYC (FR); 3 on 12 March at LPew (JWH); 10 on 22 March at LBL (CP); 4 on 24 March at AJP (FR); one to two in

Har from 21 to 27 March (MS): 4 on 27 March at CL#4 (JWH); 3 on 10 April at CL#1 (JWH); one at MCNP on 12 April (MS); 8 at MCFH on 14 April (FB); one on 5 May at LWB (JB, PB).

HORNED GREBE — One on 23 March and a rather late date of 10 May at GPP (LMc); one on 24 March at AJP (FR); one on 29 March in central Logan County (MB).

WHITE PELICAN - 9 on 16 March at JC (HC, CP).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT — Three on 16 March at JC (HC); one on 25 March at WYC (FR); 17 at Lake Carnico, Nicholas County (VK, WK); 4 on 7 May at Lau (LP, StS); one at KD on 17 May (CP).

AMERICAN BITTERN — One at EBP on 23 March (LMc).

GREAT BLUE HERON — Two on 12 March at LPew (JWH); 6 on 16 March at Jon (HC); 4 on 22 March on Ken (CP); 8 on 23 March at MCNP (JB, PB); one in Hart on 26 April and 25 May (MS); Numerous birds and at least 6 active nests were seen near Cad on 29 April (WG); 12 on 4 May near Hic (HC); 5+ on 7 May at Lau (LP, BS, StS); 14 on 11 May in Calloway County (CP, SS) 18 on 25 May at KD (CP); 8 on 23 May at KD (MM); 18 on 25 May at LBL (HC); 2 on 30 May at Elk (JWH).

SNOWY EGRET — One on 17 May at MCFH (FB); one on 25 May at KD (HC).

LITTLE BLUE HERON — One on 18 March at BWMA (MB); three on 4 May near Hic (CP).

GREAT EGRET — Two on 6 April at LC (LMc); 3 on 8 April over central Logan County; 11 on KOS field trip to Slou on 20 April (MB); two on 13 April at Sle (MM); 28 on 4 May near Hic (HC); 14 on 17 May near BarD (CP); 45 on 25 May in Fulton County (JB, PB).

CATTLE EGRET — 30+ on 27 April Cumberland River Bridge, US 60, Lyon County (WG); one on a Pet farm pond from 28 April to 4 May (LMc); 51 on 4 May near Hic (HC); 12 on 23 May near BarD (CP).

GREEN HERON — 2 on 28 April at BBW (JB, PB); 2 on 18 May in RRG (PB, JB); normal numbers at MCFH during the season (FB).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON — One at Mosley's Pond, Logan County on 14 April (MB); one on 11 May at the Pet gravel pit (LMc); 8 at BarD on 25 May (JB, PB); 12 also at BarD, 25 May (HC).

GREATER WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE — One on 14 April at MCFH (FB); 40+ on 2 March near Hic (CP).

SNOW GOOSE — 11 (7 white phase + 4 blue phase) on 2 March near Hic (CP).

CANADA GOOSE — 220 on 2 March at Hic (CP); 2 on 27 March at CL#4 (JWH); 7 young on 23 April in Ten (AS).

WOOD DUCK — 18 (9 pairs) on 4 May near Hic (CP); 50+ at Chan on 23 March (MB); 4 on 23 March at MCNP (JB, PB); 10 on 25 May in Fulton County (JB, PB).

GREEN-WINGED TEAL — 100+ on 2 March at Hic (CP); 6 on 16 March at Pet (LMc); 75-100 at Chan on 23 March (MB); two on 28 April at BBW (JB, PB).

MALLARD — 200+ on 2 March at Hic (CP); 50 on 9 March and 30 on 10 March at WYC (FR); 103 on 16 March at JC (HC); female on nest with 10 eggs on 30 April at LPew (JWH).

NORTHERN PINTAIL — 21 on 2 March at Hic (CP).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL — At several locations but a high of 30 at Pet on 6 April (LMc); 79 on 17 April at Hic (CP); 4 on 19 April at LPew (JWH); 50+ on 23 April at McEl (MS); 7 on 4 May at Hic (HC); 4 at Len on 5 May (JB, PB); scattered observations in Campbell County (FR).

NORTHERN SHOVELER — 16 on 2 March at Jon (CP); 22 on 3 March at Hic (CP); 3 on 16 March at Pet (LMc); 8 on 22 March at Honker Lake, LBL (CP); 8 on 23 March at OLL (JB, PB); 70 on 17 April near Hic (CP); 30+ on 23 April at McEL (MS); 4 on 30 April at LPew (JWH).

GADWALL — 40 on 2 March near Hic (CP).

AMERICAN WIGEON — 100+ on 2 March near Hic (CP); 6 on 4 March at LPew (JWH); 2 on 10 April at Doz (JWH); 60 on 17 April at Hic (CP); one on 28 April at Pet (LMc).

CANVASBACK — 10 on 4 March at LPew (JWH); 6 on 10 March at CEL (LMc); 2 on 14 March at Doz (JWH); 30+ on 16 March at Jon (CP).

REDHEAD — 30 on 14 March at Doz (JWH); 20+ on 16 March at Jon (CP).

RING-NECKED DUCK — One male on 14 March at Doz (JWH); 74 on 22 March at LBL (CP); 50 on 26 March at WYC (FR); 3 to 6 lingered in Boone County until 11 May (LMc).

GREATER SCAUP — 14 on 23 March on Ohio River near Mark (LMc).

LESSER SCAUP — 100 at Lake Carnico, Nicholas County on 11 March (VK, WK); 20 on 26 March and 32 on 27 March at WYC (FR); one was present on 7 May at CEL (LMc); one on 5 May at ORB (JB, PB).

COMMON GOLDENEYE — 4 on 2 March at Hic (CP).

BUFFLEHEAD — 8 on 22 March at Hic (CP); normal numbers at MCFH during season (FB).

HOODED MERGANSER — 4 on 22 March and 4 on 4 May near Hic (CP); 9 on 6 April at Pet (LMc); 5 on 25 May in Fulton County (JB, PB).

COMMON MERGANSER — 4 on 16 March at Rab (LMc); 20 on 23 March at Steele's Bottom, Gallatin County (LMc); two on 4 May near Hic (CP).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER — Eight on 17 April at Mel (FR).

RUDDY DUCK — 2 on 4, 11, 12 March at LPew (JWH); 150 on 16 March at Jon (CP); 11 on 29 March at LPew (JWH); 2 on 13 April near Union, Boone County and 3 from late April to 3 May at CEL (LMc); one on 19 April at CL#1 (JWH).

BLACK VULTURE — 10 at MCFH on 19 April (FB); 8 on 25 May at BarD (CP).

TURKEY VULTURE — 11 on 22 March in LBL (CP).

OSPREY — Six on 14 April and 5 on 19 April at MCFH (FB); 2 on 27 April at LBL (JB, PB); one on 28 April at Pet and one at Hebron, Boone County (LMc); Two active nests on 17 May in LBL (CP).

MISSISSIPPI KITE — Two on 4 May near Hic (CP); 3 on 25 May in Fulton County (JB, PB).

BALD EAGLE — Nesting pair on 2 March near Hic (CP); one immature on 2 March on the Ohio River at BBSP (LMc); an immature at BWMA on 18 March (MB); one on 27 April in LBL and two in Fulton County on 25 May (JB, PB).

NORTHERN HARRIER — One on 23 March at OLL (JB, PB); one male on 23 March in Har (MS).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK — One on 30 March in Mercer County (WD); one on 22 April in Barren County and 2 on 26 April in Har (MS).

COOPER'S HAWK — One 2 March at Hic (CP); one at feeder on 3 March in Mad (JWH); one on 9 March in Logan County (MB); one on 17 March at FL (FR); one on 31 March at RRNC (JB, PB).

RED-SHOULDERED HAWK — Two on 21 April at MCNP (JB, PB).

BROAD-WINGED HAWK — Two on 10 April in southwestern Laurel County; two on 21 April at MCNP (JB, PB); one on 15 May in Har (MS).

RED-TAILED HAWK — 7 on 2 March in Fulton County (CP); two on 17 March at FL (FR).

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK — One on 17 April near Hic (CP).

AMERICAN KESTREL — 16 on 2 March in Fulton County (CP).

VIRGINIA RAIL — Two at Slou on KOS field trip on 20 April (MB); one on 23 April in a marsh area at Sil (FR).

SORA — Fifty to sixty at Slou on 20 April during KOS field trip (MB); one seen on 23rd, 24th, 26th and 27th April in marsh area at Sil (FR).

AMERICAN COOT — LPew had the following numbers - 77 on 12 March, 218 on 29 March, 198 on 2 April, 162 on 19 April, 98 on 30 April and 24 on 10 May (JWH); 300+ on 23 April at McEl (MS).

PURPLE GALLINULE — One was observed near the Department of Highways office in Jackson, Breathitt County from 12 April to 9 May (BC, KB). (Documentation and photograph has been submitted).

COMMON MOORHEN — One seen during KOS field trip to Slou on 20 April (MB).

SANDHILL CRANE — 85 on 4 March and 43 on 7 March in Har (MS); 94 at McEl on 23 March (MB).

BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER — Two on 30 April at McEl (MB); 4 on 11 May in a flooded field in western Boone County (LMC); 11 on 17 May in a flooded field near MCFH (FB).

LESSER GOLDEN-PLOVER — 100+ at McEl on 27 March (MB).

SEMPALMATED PLOVER — Twenty at McEl on 2 May (MB); 11 at MCFH on 17 May (FB); four on 19 May at OLL (JB, PB).

KILLDEER — 12 on 16 March at Jon, species more scattered this year due to high water levels (CP).

GREATER YELLOWLEGS — Ten on 27 March at McEl (MB); 37 on 17 April near Hic (CP); 6 at McEl on 23 April (MS); 3 on 28 April at BBW (JB, PB).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS — Three at Swan Lake, Ballard County on 18 March (MB); 73 on 17 April at Hic (CP); 2 on 27 April at LBL; 3 on 28 April at BBW (JB, PB).

SOLITARY SANDPIPER — Two on 17 April at Hic (CP); 4 on 28 April at BBW (JB, PB).

WILLET — One at McEl on 23 April (MB).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER — Four on 11 May in Calloway County (CP, Sh, TS); 2 on 16 May at UK (WD); single observations on several occasions in Campbell County (FR).

UPLAND SANDPIPER — One on 14 April at McEl (MB).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER — One on 17 May at MCFH (FB).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER — One on 28 April at BBW (JB, PB).

DUNLIN — Four on 4 May at Hic (CP); 4 on 11 May in flooded field in western Boone County (LMc).

COMMON SNIBE — Two on 12 March at LPew (JWH); one on 12 March at WYC (FR); three on 4 May at Hic (CP).

WILLET — Two on 23 May below KD (MM).

SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER — Eight at McEl on 2 May (MB); 10 on 4 May and one on 19 May at OLL (JB, PB).

LAUGHING GULL — One on 23 May below KD - documentation submitted (MM).

FRANKLIN'S GULL — One on 23 May at KD (MM).

BONAPARTE'S GULL — 4 on 25 March at WYC (FR); 15 on 6 April at Rab (LMc); two in Logan County on 10 April (MB); one on 10 April and 2 on 11 April at Tay (FR); 6 on 17 April at Mel (FR); 15 on 27 April at Ken (JB, PB); 15 in flooded field near MCFH on 17 May (FB); three at Jon on 28 May (HC).

RING-BILLED GULL — 600 on 9 March and 100 on 10 March at WYC (FR); seven on 23 April at McEl (MS); 250 on 17 May at KD (CP); 75+ in flooded field near MCFH on 17 May (FB); 100+ and 30+ on 23 May below KD (CP).

CASPIAN TERN — One on 13 April at Sle (MM); 2 on 28 April at Craig's Creek, Gallatin County (LMc); 10 on 17 May at KD (CP); 3 on 23 May below KD (MM).

FORSTER'S TERN — 1 to 15 birds from 13 April to 2 May at Sle (MM); 2 on 23 April, 4 on 29 April and 22 on 3 May at WYC (FR); 4 on 17 May at KD (CP); 2 on 23 May below KD (MM).

LEAST TERN — One on 17 May at KD (CP); 9 on 25 May in Fulton County (JB, PB).

BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO — One on 11 May at Bur (LMc).

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO — Two on 25 May at Ken (JB, PB).

GREAT HORNED OWL — One on 17 March at FL (FR); one in Har on six dates in April and May (MM).

BARRED OWL — One on 21 April at MCNP and one at LBL on 27 April (JB, PB); two on 6 May at Sil (FR); one on 18 May in Har (MS).

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW — First heard on 23 April at Han (BW); first heard in Mad on 24 April (JWH).

WHIP-POOR-WILL — First heard in Han on 19 April (BW); first heard in Boone County on 20 April (LMc).

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD — First seen in Han on 21 April (BW); 4 on 27 April at LBL (JB, PB); first seen in northeast Louisville on 29 April (AS).

RED-HEADED WOODPECKER — One at Ple on 25 May and one at UK on 30 May (WD) 2 on 25 May in Fulton County (JB, PB).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER — One on 17 April at BNP and one on 27 April at LBL (JB, PB); one remained until 7 May at Bur (LMc).

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER — 30 were heard on 18 May at Bsf (RE, StS).

EASTERN WOOD-PEWEE — First observed in Mad on 3 May (JWH).

WILLOW FLYCATCHER — Three were at Pet on 11 May (LMc); two were heard at MCFH on 17 May (FB); one on 30 May at Elk (JWH).

EASTERN PHOEBE — Three on 30 March at Ple (JB, PB).

GREAT-CRESTED FLYCATCHER — One found in Han on 20 March (BW); first seen on 24 April at Mad (JWH).

EASTERN KINGBIRD — Two in Muh on 27 April and four in eastern Jefferson County on 10 May (AS).

HORNED LARK — 100 on 9 March at McEl (MB); 8 to 10 on 23 April at McEl (MS); one on 5 May in eastern Jefferson County (JB, PB).

PURPLE MARTIN — 30+ at nest gourds at home in Sil (FR).

TREE SWALLOW — One on 30 March at Ple (JB, PB); 31 on 30 April at LPew (JWH).

CLIFF SWALLOW — 14 inspecting nests on 17 April at Mel (FR); 2+ nesting at dam of Lau on 5 May (BS, StS); 200+ on 17 May at KD, collecting mud for nests, delayed this year due to high water level (CP); 25 on 17 May at MCFH (FB).

RED-BREADED NUTHATCH — One on 1 March and 9 March in Bel (FR); 4 on 24 March and one on 4 May at Ber (JB, PB).

BROWN CREEPER — One on 17 April at BNP (JB, PB).

CAROLINA WREN — Fairly common in northeast Louisville during the season (AS).

BEWICK'S WREN — One on 31 May in Mercer County (WD).

HOUSE WREN — One to two in Murray from 22 April to 30 May (CP); one

on 27 April at LBL (JB, PB).

WINTER WREN — One on 4 March at LPew (JWH); one on 30 March in Mercer County (WD).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET — 6 on 24 March at Ber and 4 on 31 March at RRNC (JB, PB).

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER — Three at MCNP on 12 April (MS); 5 on 17 April at BNP (JB, PB).

VEERY — Two on 1 May at BNP (JB, PB); one on 6 May in Har (MS); 4 were observed in Kenton and Boone Counties during the first two weeks of May (LMc).

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH — 3 on 30 April at BNP (JB, PB); one on 3 May at Bur (LMc).

SWAINSON'S THRUSH — 7 on 22 April at BNP, (JB, PB); numerous in northern Kentucky, 10 in Kenton County and 10 in Boone County on 11 May (FR); recorded nine times between 2 and 11 May in Hopkins County (JWH).

HERMIT THRUSH — 6 on 23 March at MCNP (JB, PB); one on 29 March at LPew (JWH).

WOOD THRUSH — 4 on 21 April at MCNP (JB, PB).

AMERICAN PIPIT — 10 to 15 at McEl on 9 March (MB); 8 to 10 on 23 April at McEl (MS).

CEDAR WAXWING — Up to 35 in Har during the period (MS); 41 on 7 May at BNP (JB, PB); 3 on 17 May in Mad (JWH).

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE — One on 30 May at UK (WD).

WHITE-EYED VIREO — First in Mad on 12 April (JWH).

SOLITARY VIREO — One on 5 May at Highland Cemetery, Kenton County (LMc).

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO — First in Mad on 23 April (JWH).

WARBLING VIREO — One on 19 April at LPew (JWH).

RED-EYED VIREO — 116 were heard in Bsf near Yahoo Falls on 4 May (StS); 107 on 18 May near Bear Creek in Bsf (RG, StS).

Warbler migration in northern Kentucky had above normal numbers but no unusual species (LMc, FR), well developed in other areas of the state, but no unusual species (JB, PB); scattered observations in Hopkins County (JWH).

YELLOW WARBLER — One to three from 27 to 29 April in Har (MS); one in Mad from 19 April to 2 May, a very rare observation in this area (JWH).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER — First observed at Ten on 10 May (AS).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER — 52 on 18 May near Bear Creek in Bsf (RG, StS).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER — Still present on 11 May at Ten (AS).

YELLOW-THROATED WARBLER — One on 12 April at MCNP (MS).

CERULEAN WARBLER — 10 on 4 May in Yahoo Falls area of Bsf (StS).

PROTHONOTARY WARBLER — One on 4 May at Yahoo Falls in Bsf and a total of 4 at Bee Rock Campground in Pulaski County on 5 and 7 May (StS).

SWAINSON'S WARBLER — One on 1 May in Calloway County (JE, SS); one at Yahoo Falls in Bsf on 4 May (StS); one on 5 and 7 May in northwestern Whitley County (BS, StS); 4 on 18 May near Bear Creek, Bsf (RE, StS).

NORTHERN WATERTHRUSH — Four on 7 May at Sil (FR).

YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT — One on 7 May in Har (MS).

SCARLET TANAGER — One at Bee Rock, Pulaski County on 6 May (BS, StS).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK — One to eight at feeders in Murray during late April to mid-May (CP); 15 males and 12 females at feeder in Han 15 April to 7 May (BW); seen frequently at a feeder in Mad from 24 April to 15 May - highest number being 5 males and 3 females (JWH).

BLUE GROSBEAK — Two males at feeder in Han on 15 April (BW); one heard at Mad on 2 May (JWH); one male on 11 May at Bur and a male and female on the same date at EBPP (LMc); one on 25 May at Reelfoot Wildlife Refuge (JB, PB).

DICKCISSEL — More apparent this year, 6+ in an area of Calloway County where only one or two have been seen in previous years (MM); 4 to 6 were present at Pet from the 5th to 11th of May (LMc); 15 on 5 May in eastern Jefferson County and 35 on 25 May in Fulton County (JB, PB); 10 in northeastern Jefferson County on 10 May (AS).

INDIGO BUNTING — First in Han on 15 April and 15 males at feeder on 20 April (BW); 6 males on 1 May in Mad (JWH); 200+ on 4 May along levee near Hic (HC).

AMERICAN TREE SPARROW — One on 21 March in Mad (JWH).

VESPER SPARROW — One on 24 March at Ber and one on 30 March at Ple (JB, PB).

LARK SPARROW — One on 13 April at Sle (MM).

SAVANNAH SPARROW — 12 on 30 March at Ple (JB, PB); one on 30 May at UK (WD).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW — 4 to 5 on 10 May in Har (MS).

HENSLOW'S SPARROW — One heard on 11 May Brownslow Road, Louisville (AS).

FOX SPARROW — Two on 31 March at RRNC (JB, PB).

LINCOLN'S SPARROW — One on 5 May in eastern Jefferson County (JB, PB).

SWAMP SPARROW — 10+ at Chan on 9 March (MB).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW — Last seen in Ten on 8 May (AS) and in Mad on 10 May (JWH).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW — One on 30 April at LPew, one in Mad on 5 May (JWH); 4 to 6 on 6 and 7 May in Har (MS); none observed in Ten during the season (AS).

DARK-EYED JUNCO — Last seen in Mad 12 April (JWH).

BOBOLINK — Single male on May 2 and 5 in Calloway County (MM); 500 to 1000 along levee on 4 May near Hic (HC); 15 on 5 May in a Pet field (LMc); 100 on 5 May in eastern Jefferson County (JB, PB); 2 were west of Corbin on 5 May (StS); several heard in northeast Jefferson County on 10 May (AS).

RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD — First appeared on 7 March in Bel (FR).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD — 25 to 30 at Chan on 9 March (MB).

BREWER'S BLACKBIRD — Approximately 20 at McEl on 23 March (MB).

BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD — First appeared on 7 March in Bel (FR).

ORCHARD ORIOLE — One at Mad on 7 May - has declined in numbers in Mad area during recent years (JWH).

NORTHERN ORIOLE — Three seen on 8 May in Mad - rare summer observation in area (JWH).

PURPLE FINCH — 6 on 21 April at MCNP and one on 5 May in eastern Jefferson County (JB, PB); 32 on 6 May and 1 on 12 May at a Logan County feeder (MB); present in small numbers at a Bur feeder until 16 May (LMc); frequent visitor at feeder in Mad from 28 March until 7 May - 7 was highest number (JWH).

PINE SISKIN — 15 on 13 April at Rab and 5 on 5 May at Highland Cemetery, Kenton County (LMc).

EVENING GROSBEAK — One on 6 May at Bald Rock Center, Laurel County (BB, StS).

Contributors - Jane Bell (JB), Pat Bell (PB), Clay Black (CB), Mark Bennett (MB), Fred Busroe (FB), Katie Busroe (KB), Bryan Combs (BC), Hap Chambers (HC), Wayne Davis (WD), Robert G. Emmott (RE), Joe T. Ersin (JE), Willard Gray (WG); James W. Hancock (JWH), Virginia Kingsolver (VK), Wendell Kingsolver (WK), Lee McNeely (LMc), Mike Miller (MM), Linda Perry (LP), Clell Peterson (CL), Frank Renfrow (FR), Anne Stamm (AS), Sandra Sanders (SS), Sherry Sherwood (Sh), Tom Sherwood (TS), Barbara Stedman (BS), Stephen J. Stedman (StS), Mitchell Sturgeon (MS), Bonnie West (BW).

THE KENTUCKY BIRDS RECORD COMMITTEE HAS ACCEPTED THE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS.

CINNAMON TEAL — Present on 30 and 31 March, 1995 at Wesvaco Wildlife Management Area, Carlisle and Hickman Counties. Submitted by Maurica Toon.

ANHINGA — Present from 1 to 23 September, 1995 in Breckinridge County. Submitted by Ann and Edward Bowne.

NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL — 23 October 1995 in Hart County. Submitted by Steve Kistler.

RED-NECKED GREBE — 16 December 1995 in Gallatin County. Submitted by Lee McNeely.

BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE — 16 December 1995 in Gallatin County. Submitted by Brainard Palmer-Ball.

THAYER'S GULL — 16 December 1995 in Gallatin County. Submitted by Brainard Palmer-Ball.

TUNDRA SWAN — 16 January 1996 at Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County. Submitted by Lewis Kornman.

CURLEW SANDPIPER — 20 September 1995 at Falls of Ohio, Louisville, Jefferson County. Submitted by Mark Monroe and Brainard Palmer-Ball.

COMMON BLACK-HEADED GULL — 15 to 23 November 1995 at Falls of Ohio, Louisville, Jefferson County. Submitted by Brainard Palmer-Ball.

OBSERVATIONS SUBMITTED FOR REVIEW BY THE KENTUCKY BIRDS RECORD COMMITTEE.

OVENBIRD — November 1995 through February 1996 at Covington, Kenton County. Submitted by Sherry Curran.

TRI-COLORED HERON — 17 June 1995 at the Transient Lakes, Warren County. Submitted by Michael Bierly and Gilbert Foster.

ROSS' GOOSE — 10 March 1996 in Mercer County. Submitted by Ginny Eklund.

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

KENTUCKY 1996 MIDWINTER BALD EAGLE SURVEY

Laura Burford and Jim Durell

This was the nineteenth midwinter Bald Eagle census for Kentucky. Target dates for 1996 were January 13 and 14, with alternate dates between January 3 and 17. In some of the best eagle areas, weather was cool and snow blocked some of the roads. Illnesses and the Federal Government shut-down interfered with some census routes. Ice cover was 10-15%.

Final tabulation indicated 258 Bald Eagles. Of the 252 eagles aged, 186 (74%) were adults and 66 (26%) were immatures. Six were not identified as to age and two were not identified to species. Last year 34% of the eagles were juveniles. Two Golden Eagles, one adult and one juvenile, were reported on Bernheim Forest. These data are presented by route in Table I.

TABLE 1.

Summary of Kentucky Bald Eagle Census, January 3-17, 1996, with some earlier high counts.

ROUTE	Ad.	1996		1994	Earlier records	
		Imm.	Total		High	Year
Land Between the Lakes	67	31	98	1@	140	1993
Reelfoot Lake	2	2	4	2	9	1993
Mississippi River	36	3	39	5	72	1984
Ohio R., up to Carrsville	11	4	17*	1	89	1986
Ballard Waterfowl Area	10	8	18	21	21	1993
Ohio, Carrsville to Henderson	11	4	15	15	17	1989
Ohio, Henderson to Meade Co.	1		1	2	3	1993
Ohio, Meade to Louisville	3	1	4	2	5	1986
Kentucky River	1	1	2			
Taylorville Lake	1		1		1	1994
Bernheim Forest (2 golden)			0	2	4	1993
Green River Lake	3		3	7	13	1994
Dale Hollow, Ky. portion	9	1	13*	31	38	1989
Lake Cumberland	21	6	27	13	26	1990
Cumberland River, below dam	5	1	6	2	8	1986
Laurel Lake	3	3	7*	2	13	1992
Cave Run Lake	2	1	3	2	10	1989
TOTALS FOR 1996	186	66	258*	112#		

* Includes eagles not identified as to age.

@ 79 eagles were counted outside the time frame in 1995.

Total for 1995 includes some routes not reported here.

Total for 1996: 262, included 2 Golden Eagles, and 2 not identified to species.

Routes were run but no eagles were seen on the following lakes and streams: Barren River, Buckhorn, Carr Fork, Dewey, Fishtrap, Fox Creek, Grayson, Green River, Guist Creek, Herrington, Lake Malone, Bluegrass Army Depot, Martin's Fork, Nolin, Ohio River Louisville to Ashland, Paintsville, Rough River and Yatesville.

Reports of other raptors were too meager to make tabulating worthwhile for 1996.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This census was conducted by 120 listed participants in 82 parties. They represented the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, Kentucky Ornithological Society, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Tennessee Valley Authority (Land Between the Lakes), U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bluegrass Army Depot, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, Bernheim Forest, Kentucky Department of Parks, Buckley Hills Audubon Sanctuary and several private citizens.

--Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, 1 Game Farm Road, Frankfort, KY 40601.

--308 Meadow Lane, Frankfort, KY 40601

FIELD NOTES

Editor's note: Records of bird sightings reported herein have been submitted to the Kentucky Bird Records Committee and do not constitute official state records until approved by that body.

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCHES NESTING AT THE RED RIVER GORGE: A First State Record for Kentucky

On June 1, 1996 I observed a male Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) along Swift's Creek Trail in the Clifty Wilderness Area of the Daniel Boone National Forest, Wolfe County, Kentucky. It was feeding in a white pine tree, and on obtaining a large insect flew off with it hanging from its bill. It disappeared into the dense foliage of this lush hemlock gorge. I returned to look for it the next day, with no luck.

Armed with a tape of the Red-breasted Nuthatch's call notes, I returned to the area on June 10. With the use of this tape I was able to locate this species in eight separate locations along a 3/4 mile stretch of the trail. I found two birds, apparently a male and a female in the June 1 location. During the day I had enough widely spaced responses to my tape to indicate a count of four to six individuals of this species.

Upon returning on June 16, I found a pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches feeding in the bark of a river birch near the Old Log Dam at Swift's Creek, very close to the original sighting. The next day I located one female near the junction of Swift's Creek and Rock Bridge Trails. It responded with an alarmed and continuously repeated "ek-ek-ek" to the sound of my tape.

I returned to the same spot on July 1 and got an immediate response from a male Red-breasted Nuthatch, giving an equally alarmed and continuous "ank-ank-ank" from the top of a hemlock. This bird was soon joined by another, probably a female.

During all of these visits, I spent a considerable amount of time searching for a nest hole. I had previously found a nest of this species in southwestern Ohio, so I was familiar with what to look for. Although the Swift's Creek area had been logged in

the past, the forest matured considerably. Dozens of dead trees containing many small holes (what I dubbed the "swiss cheese effect") stood in the ten to twenty acre area in which I concentrated my search.

On July 2, I found a 1 inch diameter nest hole with a telltale coating of pine resin thickly smeared around it. The hole was about twelve feet up in a mostly dead red maple tree some eight inches in diameter. Next to the hole was another more shallow excavation, also coated with pitch. There was a large white pine a few feet away in which a conical depression had been excavated through the bark. This was exuding substantial quantities of pitch, which trickled down in a line onto a small hemlock below.

I returned to this location on July 4 and observed the nest hole for a considerable amount of time. I could hear Red-breasted Nuthatches calling intermittently nearby, but I did not observe them at the nest hole.

I followed the sound of the birds to a spot several hundred feet away, in the direction of Rock Bridge. Upon playing my tape, four Red-breasted Nuthatches came very close to me. Two of these were boldly plumaged males, while the other two were in duller plumage. One of these, apparently a juvenile, began to quiver its wings and beg. It was subsequently fed by one of the males. I continued to see and hear more Red-breasted Nuthatches in this vicinity for the next several hours. I also heard several individuals on the opposite side of the creek, where I found another possible nest site with a similar situation of a small gouge in a white pine dripping with pitch and a dead snag full of holes immediately adjacent.

The Red-breasted Nuthatch invariably coats the nest entrance with a thick coat of resin, utilizing spruce or fir in the north and pine farther to the south (Bent 1948). This is an unequivocal sign of nesting activity in this species. It is also interesting to note that Bent describes "other holes not so deep" adjacent to the nest hole, and that these nuthatches sometimes excavate three or four holes before selecting a final location to nest. This may explain some of the "swiss cheese" effect which can be seen throughout this section of the gorge.

If these birds followed a similar chronology to the ones that I found nesting in southwestern Ohio (fledged by June 11), this nest had probably been vacated by the time that I had found it.

Red-breasted Nuthatches have been found to summer to the north as close as Hocking County in southeastern Ohio (Peterjohn 1989). They are also found in hemlock and white pine forests in the southern Blue Ridge, but not below 2,500 feet (Simpson 1992).

White pine and hemlock forest is considered to be the secondary nesting habitat of the Red-breasted Nuthatch, the preferred habitat being the spruce and fir association of the northern forests and higher mountains. The Clifty Wilderness Area of the Red River Gorge contains an impressive stand of mature white pine and hemlock woods. These are intermixed with deciduous trees such as red maple, sweet birch and big leaf magnolia along with an understory of dense tangles of rhododendron and mountain laurel.

Previously, there have been only two summer records of this species in Kentucky. The first, a female collected at Bardstown on July 16, 1886 by Beckham, the other an individual seen on Big Black Mountain on July 3, 1982 by Lene Rauth (Monroe 1994).

In Ohio, Hicks (1935) mentions that this species could be easily overlooked as it is extremely difficult to locate during the breeding season. I feel strongly, due to the number of individuals observed, the ideal habitat, and the abundance of potential nest sites, that this may not be an isolated occurrence. It is possible that there may be a small population of Red-breasted Nuthatches nesting in the Red River Gorge. Only further study of this unique area will determine the true status of this species as a breeding bird in Kentucky.

--Frank Renfrow, 611 South O'Fallon Ave., Bellevue, Kentucky 41073.

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FIRST KENTUCKY RECORD OF BAND-RUMPED STORM-PETREL

The Band-rumped Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma castro*) breeds on oceanic islands of both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, and ranges at sea the rest of the year (American Ornithologists' Union 1983). The species is a regular visitant to the Gulf Stream waters off the Atlantic Coast states and an occasional vagrant in the inland eastern United States (American Ornithologists' Union 1983). As with most other pelagic vagrants, these small petrels normally have occurred inland following the passage of a hurricane or tropical storm. There are specimen records of central Indiana in 1902 (Keller *et al.* 1986) and eastern Tennessee in 1975 (Robinson 1990). The Tennessee record involved the observation of three birds that were found dead or dying in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park following the passage of the remnants of Hurricane Eloise.

In late July 1994, Denny Sabree discovered a strange waterbird lying dead in the grass of his yard, which lies along the Kentucky River in the extreme southeastern corner of Anderson County. Based on recollection from pictures in bird books, he believed the bird was a storm-petrel, and since the specimen was in good condition, he placed it in a freezer to keep until he could deliver it to someone who could confirm its identity. On October 11, 1994, Mr. and Mrs. Sabree brought the bird to the Nongame Wildlife Program of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources in Frankfort for determination. Theresa Anderson of the Nongame Staff was able to identify the bird using several reference books on hand, and the identification was subsequently corroborated by David Yancy, the Nongame Wildlife

Program Coordinator.

The bird is entirely sooty-brown except for a broad white patch on the upper tail coverts (see cover). The upper greater wing coverts are slightly paler. The specimen measured approximately 7.75 inches from the tip of the bill to the end of the retrices and had a wingspan of about 16.5 inches. In addition, the black-webbed feet do not project beyond the tail. This combination of characters eliminates all other similarly appearing species of storm-petrels. The specimen will be shipped to the U. S. National Museum for subspecific determination and deposition into the museum's collection of bird skins. Photographs showing identifying field marks have been deposited with Anne L. Stamm for curation with other records of the Kentucky Ornithological Society.

This occurrence constitutes the first documented record of the Band-rumped Storm-Petrel in Kentucky. Mr. Sabree could not recall the exact date on which he discovered the bird, but he did remember that it had been in late July, about two or three days after a storm had moved up the east coast of the United States. Although there were no major hurricanes in the region of the eastern United States during the summer of 1994, two tropical depressions are on record at the Kentucky Climatological Center at Western Kentucky University (G. Conner, pers. comm.). Tropical storm Alberto, which caused substantial flooding in southern Georgia in early July 1994, originated in the Caribbean and headed out to sea once it entered the Atlantic Ocean. This storm would have occurred rather early to account for the occurrence of the storm-petrel, and it did not originate in an especially favorable area. Much more likely responsible for the petrel's occurrence here was an unnamed tropical depression that moved northwest out of the Atlantic Ocean and brushed the south Atlantic Coast states during the week proceeding July 23, 1994, spreading heavy rain across the southeastern quarter of the country.

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--BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR., Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, 801 Schenkel Lane, Frankfort, 40601.

SPRING RECORDS OF PIPING PLOVER IN KENTUCKY

In *The Birds of Kentucky* Robert Mengel (1965) included no confirmed Kentucky records for the Piping Plover (*Charadrius melodus*) in-spring. He noted the collection of a bird along the bank of the Ohio River near Cincinnati – and thus just

outside of Kentucky – on May 4, 1879, as well as two reports that he considered not entirely satisfactory from McElroy Lake in Warren County. These records were for “several dozen” on May 21, 1933, and 15 birds on May 26, 1937, numbers which may have possibly occurred at that time, but for which there are no recent comparable records regionally. Wilson (1962) included a third record of one bird at McElroy Lake for May 3, 1953, that would seem to be authentic. Big Spring Lists published in *The Kentucky Warbler* 1964-1977 include only one reference to the species’ occurrence, a sight record from the Henderson Area on May 2, 1965 (Stamm 1965). In the absence of further details, the authenticity of this record is unclear, but it would seem acceptable given the date and single bird.

Regionally, the species is also considered a rare to casual spring migrant. Robinson (1990) included only five spring records from Tennessee, while Keller *et al.* (1986) list no spring records from central and southern Indiana. In Ohio, the Piping Plover has been considered accidental to casual in spring (Peterjohn 1989) while in Illinois it is considered a rare spring transient during early to mid-May (Bohlen 1978).

On the afternoon of April 30, 1995, I observed two Piping Plovers on the pools of the main fossil bed at the Falls of the Ohio. The following field marks were noted on both birds: very pale, sandy brown upperparts, blackish breast band (seemingly complete in one bird), black forecrown patch, white forehead, and narrow whitish neck collar. The legs appeared orangish in color, and the bills of both birds appeared blackish, although it seemed that some orangish-red color was present at their bases. The above combination of field marks eliminate all similar species. The birds were viewed from the overlook at the Falls of the Ohio State Park, a distance of approximately three-tenths of a mile, but study through a 60x Questar telescope and an overcast sky allowed for clear views without the typical glare of the afternoon sun. Foraging nearby were 6-8 Semipalmated Plovers (*Charadrius semipalmatus*), allowing for excellent comparison of size and plumage, especially back color. One bird appeared more boldly marked than the other, suggesting that the two might constitute a pair.

The Piping Plovers were studied for at least 30 minutes as they foraged along the margins of the outer fossil bed pools. They fluttered once or twice, but their wing and tail patterns were not observed well. The birds fed in typical plover-like fashion, alternately walking and pausing to pick up prey. As noted above, the afternoon was overcast. A front had passed the previous night, accompanied by several periods of showers, and low clouds had persisted throughout the entire day on April 30th. These are conditions that have typically provided some of the better local shorebird fallouts. Other waterbirds present at the Falls on April 30th included numerous Double-crested Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus*), Black-crowned Night Herons (*Nycticorax nycticorax*) and Killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*), one Semipalmated Sandpiper (*Calidris pusilla*), six Least Sandpipers (*Calidris minutilla*), three Dunlin (*Calidris alpina*), three Solitary Sandpipers (*Tringa solitaria*), at least 30 Ring-billed Gulls (*Larus delawarensis*), 15 Herring Gulls (*Larus argentatus*) -- a very atypical group consisting mostly of adult birds, three Common Terns (*Sterna hirundo*), six Forster’s Terns (*Sterna forsteri*), and a Caspian Tern (*Sterna caspia*). Even though this report constitutes yet another single observer sight record, it is the first extensively documented by written description and the first spring sight report in nearly 30 years.

On May 3, 1996, I observed another spring Piping Plover, this time at Chaney

Lake near Woodburn in southern Warren County. The bird was viewed from as close as about 50 feet and compared with Semipalmated Plovers that were feeding next to it. Excellent views of most definitive field marks were noted during my extended study, although the bird never flew so I could not clearly distinguish that it had a light rump. The bird had a complete chest band and only a small amount of organish color at the base of the bill. Color photographs were obtained of this individual, which clearly show the distinctive field marks. Duplicates of these photographs have been deposited with Lee McNeely, Secretary for the Kentucky Bird Records Committee, and they constitute the first photographic documentation of the occurrence of Piping Plover in Kentucky in spring.

On May 6, 1996, I encountered yet another spring Piping Plover, this time while birding with Burt Monroe, III, Mark Monroe, Don Parker, and Richard Healy at Kentucky Dam, Marshall County. We were studying gulls and terns from one of the pull-outs on the dam, when a strange, whistled note attracted our attention. We turned to view a small shorebird that was flying parallel to the dam heading east. The bird gave us only a brief look as it passed by and beyond, but it was clearly a small plover based on size and the blackish chest band on otherwise white underparts. In addition, as it flew away we clearly saw that the upperparts were a light sandy brown, that the rump was white, and that the darker wings had a noticeable, whitish wing stripe. The call, as it turned out, was also definitive, clearly being a flight note of a Piping Plover.

These observations further supplement earlier records indicating that the Piping Plover is at least an occasional spring migrant through Kentucky. As recovery efforts for this federally threatened species develop in states of the northern midwest, its occurrence as a migrant through Kentucky may become more frequent. Nonetheless, sightings of Piping Plovers in Kentucky should continue to be fully recorded by written or photographic documentation.

--BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR., 8207 Old Westport Road, Louisville, 40222.

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NEWS AND VIEWS

K.O.S. Mourns the Loss of Dr. Herbert Clay

Dr. Herbert Clay died May 14, 1996. Several months prior to his death he completed his second year as President of the Kentucky Ornithological Society. He will be missed by all in the K.O.S. and deepest sympathies are extended on behalf of all to Kathryn Clay and her family.

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. Three grants have recently been funded.

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.

Fall K.O.S. Meeting

The Fall meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society will be held September 27, 28, and 29 at Kenlake State Park. If you would like to make a presentation as part of the Friday evening program, please contact Wendell Kingsolver, Box 200, Shepherd's Hills, Carlisle, Kentucky, 40311. Mark your calendar and join with other birding enthusiasts for a great weekend.

Public Comment on the Use of Daniel Boone National Forest

The U.S. Forest Service is accepting public comment on how to manage the Daniel Boone National Forest until September 19. If you would like to voice your opinion, write to: Forest Plan, U.S. Forest Service, 1700 Bypass Road, Winchester, Kentucky, 40391. This will be the last opportunity to affect the usage of this wilderness area for a number of years.