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The Kentucky Warbler

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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THE COVER

We thank Ray Harm for this excellent painting of a Peregrine Falcon, *Falco peregrinus*.

THE FALL SEASON, 1996

FRED M. BUSROE

Weather conditions were erratic during the period with near record high temperatures on 1 November, to lows near 20 degrees on 10 and 11 November. Louisville had 3.5 inches above normal rain with a rain-snow mix on 11 November and a dusting of snow on 14 November in other areas of the state. Fair numbers of Sandhill Cranes were reported across the state with a normal warbler movement in mixed flocks statewide. However, shorebirds were scarce in western Kentucky because high water levels in the TVA lakes reduced the available habitat.

Abbreviations - Alex = Alexandria, Campbell County; AJJ = A.J. Jolly Park, Campbell County; Bal = Ballard WMA, Ballard County, Bar = Barren River Reservoir, Barren County; Bel = Bellevue, Campbell County; Bem = Bernheim Forest, Nelson County; BNP = Beargrass Nature Preserve, Louisville, Jefferson County; Bow = Bowling Green, Warren County; Cha = Chaney Lake, Warren County; CKWA = Central Kentucky Wildlife Management Area, Madison County; CEL = Camp Ernst Lake, Boone County; Cre = Joe Creason Park, Louisville, Jefferson County; CRL = Cave Run Lake, Rowan County; DC = Drake's Creek, Warren County; EBP = East Bend Power Plant, Boone County; Falls = Falls of the Ohio, Louisville, Jefferson County; FtT = Fort Thomas, Campbell County; Fre = Freeman Lake, Hardin County; GRL = Green River Lake, Adair County; Gri = Griffith Park, Warren County; Han = Hanson, Hopkins County; Hart = Hart County; Jon = Jonathan Creek, Marshall County; Lak = Laketon Boat Ramp, Carlisle County; L#9 = Lake #9, Fulton County; LPew = Lake Pewee, Hopkins County; Log = Logan County; Mar = Markland Dam, Gallatin County; McE = McElory Lake, Warren County; MCFH = Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County; MCNP = Mammoth Cave National Park, Edmonson County; Mel = Meldahl Dam, Bracken County; MCP = Middle Creek Park, Boone County; Mos = Mosley's Pond, Logan County; OLF = Outer Loop Landfill, Jefferson County; ORB = Ohio River Basin, Jefferson County; Pea = Peabody Stripmine Management Area, Ohio County; Pet = Petersburg, Boone County; Rav = Raven Run Sanctuary, Fayette County; RH = Rabbit Hash, Boone County; Ric = Richmond, Madison County; Riv = Riverside Sanctuary, Jefferson County; RNWR = Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge, Fulton County; Sas = Sassafras Ridge, Fulton County; Sha = Shanty Hollow Lake, Warren County; Sil = Silo Overlook, Land Between the Lakes, Lyon County; Slo = Slough Wildlife Management Area, Henderson County; Spi = Spindletop Farm, Fayette County; SSM = Silver Springs Marsh, Warren County; Tay = Taylor Park, Campbell County; Ten = Ten Broeck Subdivision, Louisville, Jefferson County; TSP = Tom Sawyer State Park, Louisville, Jefferson County; Wav = Waverly Park, Jefferson County; West = Westvaco Management Area, Hickman County.

RED-THROATED LOON — Two on 24 November and one on 27 November at GRL (DR).

COMMON LOON — Thirty-three on 1 November at CRL (FB); 3 on 11 November at Jon (CP); 11 on 12 November, 14 on 14 November and 28 on 21 November at CRL (FB); 2 on 23 November at Fre (MB, MS); 3 on 23 November in Marshall County (Hap).

PIED-BILLED GREBE — The numbers ranged from 9 to 27 at LPew during October and November (JWH).

HORNED GREBE — Two on 2 November at RH (LMc); 8 on 1 November and one on 3 November ORB (JB, PB); 16 at LPew on 16 October (JWH); approx. 35 at various locations of Kentucky Lake on 17 November (MB); 3 on 23 November at GRL (MB); 8 on 23 November at Fre (MB, MS); 13 on 23 November on Kentucky Lake (Hap).

AMERICAN WHITE PELICAN — 78 on 16 August at Hic (CP); 45 on 30 August at L#9 (CP); 3 on 3 October on Ohio River, Covington, Kenton County (JC); 80 on 14 October at L#9 (CP); a small flock was at Fre on 29 October (JB, PB); one on 29 October at Fre (DR); 11 on 28 November at Fre (MB).

DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT — 550+ on 7 September at Sil (CP); 24 on 24 September at Lak (CP); 6 on 19 September at Bar (DR); 75 on 8 October at DC (DR); 30 on 27 October at Falls (JB, PB); 27 on 28 October at Falls (MB); one to seven at MCFH during the season (FB); 5 on 16 November at LPew (JWH); 25 above Barkley Dam on 17 November (MB); one on 23 November at Fre (MS); 250+ at Sil on 23 November (CP).

AMERICAN BITTERN — One on 13 October at Slo (MB).

LEAST BITTERN — One on 3 and 4 September at MCFH (FB, LK).

GREAT BLUE HERON — 28 on 9 August at Falls (JB, PB); fewer than normal at MCFH but increasing to about 25 birds (FB); one to 5 were at LPew during the season (JWH); 100+ on 16 August near Hic (CP).

GREAT EGRET — One on 4 August at the OLF (JB, PB); 11 in Carlisle and Ballard Counties on 8 August (CP); 150 on 16 August near Hic (CP); 100+ on 30 August at RNWR (CP); 3 on 31 August at L#9 (MB); one on 21 September at EBP (LMc); numbers lower than last year at MCFH, one to four during August and September (FB).

SNOWY EGRET — Eight on 16 August near Hic (CP).

LITTLE BLUE HERON — Twelve on 16 August near Hic (CP); 100+ were mostly first year birds on 30 August at RNWR (CP); 2 on 31 August at L#9 (MB).

CATTLE EGRET — Three on 30 August at RNWR (CP).

GREEN HERON — Two on 10 August at OLF (JB, PB); 3 on 18 September at Riv (JB, PB); last observation at MCFH on 24 September (FB).

BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT-HERON — 32 on 9 August at Falls (JB, PB); one immature on 21 September at EBP (LMc).

SNOW GOOSE — 5 (1 white + 4 blue) on 14 October at Bal (CP); 6 on 18 November on Gre (DR).

CANADA GOOSE — 400+ at Bal on 14 October (CP); 88 at LPew on 15 November and 33 on 29 November (JWH); flock of 50 on 28 November over Snyder Freeway east of Louisville (S).

WOOD DUCK — 75 to 100 on 11 October and 128 on 26 October at Mos (MB).

AMERICAN BLACK DUCK — 8 on 27 November at LBL (JTE, MM, CP).

MALLARD — 200 on 19 November at Jon (CP); 25 on 27 November at LBL (JTE, MM, CP).

BLUE-WINGED TEAL — Six on 29 August, 6 on 10 September, 5 on 13 September, 6 on 28 September and 5 on 19 October at MCFH (FB); 45 near Earlington, Hopkins County on 11 September (JWH); 50 on 29 September at Jon (CP); 12 on 14 October at Bal (CP); 6 to 8 from 26 October to 10 November on farm pond near Pet (LMc).

NORTHERN SHOVELER — One on 27 September and two on 28 September at MCFH (FB); 12 on 19 November at Bal (CP).

GADWALL — 30 on 22 October and 3 on 3 November at Falls (JB, PB); approximately 10 at Goose Pond, CRL from 20 October to 30 November (FB).

AMERICAN WIGEON — Approximately 20 at Goose Pond, CRL during November (FB); 9 on 19 November at Bal (CP); 10 on 30 November at Fre (MS).

CANVASBACK — One on 15 November at Gri (DR); 27 on 23 November and 80+ on 27 November at Bal (CP).

REDHEAD — Eight on 25 October and 2 on 16 November at LPew (JWH); 16 on 20 November at CEL (LMc).

RING-NECKED DUCK — One on 27 October and one on 3 November at ORB (JB, PB); 80 on 15 November at LPew (JWH); 12 on 28 November at Fre (MB); 14 on 27 November at LBL (JTE, MM, CP).

LESSER SCAUP — Two on 3 November at ORB (JB, PB); 100+ on 23 November on Kentucky Lake (Hap, CP).

WHITE-WINGED SCOTER — One 17 November at the Kentucky Dam Marina (MB); one on 23 November at LBL, Trigg County (Hap, CP).

BUFFLEHEAD — 21 on 1 November on Ohio River near Louisville (JB, PB); one on 1 November but had increased to 75 by the end of November at MCFH (FB); one on 2 November at Mar (LMc).

HOODED MERGANSER — 9 on 19 November at Jon (CP); 285 on Energy Lake, LBL on 30 November (MB).

RED-BREASTED MERGANSER — 11 on 21 November at FtT (FR); 2 on 24 November at GRL (DR).

RUDDY DUCK — 15 on 31 October at Falls and 25 on Ohio River, Louisville (JB, PB); 4 on 9 November near Union, Boone County (LMc); 10 to 42 on LPew during November (JWH); 72 on 11 November at Jon (CP); 4 on 23 November at Fre (MS); 14 at Bar on 23 November (MB); 100+ on 23 November at Jon (CP); 4 on 26 November at Tay (FR); one on 29 November at Mel (FR).

BLACK VULTURE — 2 on 17 August at Falls (JB, PB); 50+ on 21 September at EBP (LMc); two on 23 November at GRL (MB).

TURKEY VULTURE — 12 on 7 September near Lak (CP); largest number was 125 at MCFH on 1 November (FB); 250+ on 23 November at Bar (MB).

OSPREY — Four on 19 September at Bar (DR); one on 22 September at Mel (FR); one on 3 October at Bow (DR); 3 on 21 October at Falls (MB); one on 4 and 27 October and 3 November at Falls (JB, PB); two on 16 October at Bar (DR); one at MCFH from 15 August until 1 October (FB).

MISSISSIPPI KITE — One on 14 October northeast of Phillipy, Fulton County (CP).

BALD EAGLE — One adult on 8 August at Bal (CP); the earliest fall date at MCFH was on 24 August with one adult and one immature observed; one adult and one immature on 4 October at Hic (FB); one immature on 11 October at Sha (DR); 2 on 13 October at Slo (JB, PB); one on 27 October at Falls (JB, PB); one on 13 November at Mar (MB); 3 on 18 November and one on 24 and 27 November at GRL (DR); 2 on 31 November at GRL (MB).

NORTHERN HARRIER — One female on 4 October at Sas (FB); 2 on 26 October at McE (JB, PB); two (1 m. and 1 f.) on 1 November at McE (MS).

SHARP-SHINNED HAWK — One on 13 August in Metcalfe County (MS); one at Fre on

13 November (MB).

COOPER'S HAWK — Two on 11 August at Rav (FR); one on 25 August and 15 September at BNP (JB, PB); one on 12 October at Slo (MB).

ROUGH-LEGGED HAWK — 6 on 19 November at Pea (DR).

GOLDEN EAGLE — One immature on 27 November GRL (DR).

PEREGRINE FALCON — One on 17 August and on 3 November at Falls (JB, PB); one on 1 October at MCFH (FB); one on 13 November at Falls (MB).

WILD TURKEY — 10 on 17 September in northern Log (MB); 18 on 23 November at Ber (JB, PB); 6 on 27 November at Barkley State Park, Marshall County (CP).

YELLOW RAIL — One at McE from 19 to 28 October. First discovered by DR but also seen by JB, PB, MB, BPB, TD, JE, MH, JP, and MT. Documentation has been submitted.

SORA — One on 13 October at Slo (JB, PB); one on 13 October at Slo (MB); one on 14 October at McE (DR).

SANDHILL CRANE — 250 over Eastern Jefferson County on 9 November (DN); 31 on 11 November at Spi (JW); 45+ on 11 November at MCFH (DF, AS); 150 on 12 November over southeastern Louisville (JB, PB); 51 on 16 November at DC (DR); 700+ on 19 November at Pea (DR); 18 on 21 November in Barren County (MS); 14 on 23 November at Bern (JB, PB); 25 on 26 November at Richmond (GR).

AMERICAN COOT — The high number at LPew was 1,445 on 25 October (JWH); 250+ on 30 October and 23 November at Fre (MS); rafts of 150 to 250 birds were seen at CRL from 1 to 15 November (FB); 60 on 19 November at Jon, 30 on 23 November at Jon and on Kentucky Lake (CP).

One of the poorest shorebird seasons in many years in western Kentucky due to high water in the lakes (CP).

AMERICAN GOLDEN PLOVER — Two on 3 September, one on 20 and 21 September at MCFH (FB); 26 on 22 October at McE (DR).

SEMIPALMATED PLOVER — Numbers of 5 to 10 at MCFH from 17 August to 21 September (FB); 4 on 31 August at Lak (MB).

KILLDEER — Numbers were higher than usual at MCFH with as many as 200 birds being seen several occasions during the season (FB); 66 on 8 August at Bal (CP); 40 on 23 November at Jon (CP).

AMERICAN AVOCET — One on 15 September at Bar (DR); 6 on 24 September at Falls (JB, PB).

GREATER YELLOWLEGS — 1 on 31 August at Falls (JB, PB); one on 7 September near Lak (CP); one at MCFH on 13 and 14 September (FB).

LESSER YELLOWLEGS — Three at MCFH from 17 August to 13 September (FB).

SOLITARY SANDPIPER — One on 24 August, 3 and 10 September at MCFH (FB); 2 to 3 during late August in central Log (MB).

SPOTTED SANDPIPER — One on 8 August in Fulton County (CP); one on 17 and 31 August at Falls (JB, PB); approx. 50 at Lak on 31 August (MB).

RUDDY TURNSTONE — 6 on 31 August at Lak (MB).

SANDERLING — One on 17 August at MCFH (FB); 8 on 31 August at Lak (MB).

SEMPALMATED SANDPIPER — Ten to 25 at MCFH from 17 August to 14 September (FB); 10 on 31 August at Lak (MB).

WESTERN SANDPIPER — Five on 5 September and 3 on 10 September at MCFH (FB); one at Jon on 23 November (CP).

LEAST SANDPIPER — Ten to 25 at MCFH from 17 August to 21 September (FB); 75 in central Log on 21 August (MB); 70+ on 31 August at Lak (MB); 3 on 7 September near Lak (CP).

WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER — One on 13 September, 3 on 17 October and 5 on 18 October at MCFH (FB).

BAIRD'S SANDPIPER — One on 31 August at Lak (MB); 3 on 10 September at MCFH (FB).

PECTORAL SANDPIPER — Six on 15 August, 15 on 21 August and 14 on 2 September in central Log (MB); 8 on 30 August near L#9 (CP); 35 on 3 and 5 September at MCFH (FB); 6 near Lak on 7 September (Hap, CP, SS); 15 on 13 September, 4 on 14 September, 10 on 15 October, 10 on 17 October, 11 on 19 October and 6 on 29 October at MCFH (FB).

DUNLIN — 6 on 4 October at Sas (FB); 3 to 8 were present at MCFH from 11 October until 19 November (FB).

STILT SANDPIPER — Five on 24 August, one on 3 September at MCFH (FB); one on 7 September near Lak (Hap, CP, SS); two at MCFH on 13 September (FB).

BUFF-BREASTED SANDPIPER — 1 on 31 August at Falls (JB, PB); 5 on 31 August at Lak (MB); 2 on 2 September at MCFH (JW); 18 on 7 September near Lak (Hap, CP, SS).

COMMON SNIFE — 20 at Slo on 12 October (MB); 5 on 16 November at LPew (JWH); 1 was present at Jon on 23 November (Hap, CP).

BONAPARTE'S GULL — One on 12 November at MCFH (FB); 50 on 19 November at Jon (Hap, JTE, MM, CP); 7 on 19 November and 3 on 21 November at MCFH (FB); 12 at Fre and 3 at GRL on 23 November (MB).

RING-BILLED GULL — 20 on 23 October at Fre (MS); late in arriving at MCFH, first observed on 12 November (FB); 40 to 100 were seen between 11 and 27 November at Jon (Hap, JTE, MM, CP); 50 on 26 November at Tay and 20 on 29 November at Mel (FR).

HERRING GULL — One on 1 October at Falls (JB, PB); 8 at Jon on 19 November (Hap, JTE, MM, CP); approx. 25 on 24 November at Kentucky Dam (MB).

THAYER'S GULL — A first year bird was seen near Kentucky Dam on 17 and 31 November (MB). Documentation to be submitted.

LESSER BLACK-BACKED GULL — An immature bird was seen on 4 and 5 October during a KOS field trip as well as being observed on 17 and 30 November (MB).

CASPIAN TERN — 13 on 31 August at Falls (JB, PB); 2 on 31 August at Lak (MB).

FORSTER'S TERN — 80 on 8 November and 40 on 23 November at Jon (Hap, CP); one on 30 November at Jon (MB).

LEAST TERN — Twelve on 30 August at L#9 (CP) and 3 on 7 September near Lak

(Hap, CP, SS); 4 on 31 August at Lak (MB).

YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO — One on 7 September at TSP and 3 on 5 October at Bern (JB, PB); one on 21 September at MCNP (MB).

EASTERN SCREECH-OWL — Two calling on 17 August at Bel (FR); one seen on 3 and 9 September in Hart (MS).

GREAT HORNED OWL — Two seen and heard in Hart throughout the season (MS); 2 on 29 August in central Log (MB).

BARRED OWL — One seen on 1 to 10 August and on 13 to 16 August near Han (BW); 4 on 26 October at Mos (MB).

SHORT-EARED OWL — One seen on 1 November at McE (MS); one on 19 November at Pea (DR).

COMMON NIGHTHAWK — 50+ on 4 September over a field in central Log (MB); 6 in Fulton County on 14 October (CP); last observed on 16 October at DC (DR).

CHUCK-WILL'S-WIDOW — Last heard in Pleasant View Marsh, Hopkins County on 25 August (JWH).

WHIP-POOR-WILL — Last recorded near Han on 22 September (BW).

RUFOUS HUMMINGBIRD — A tagged female was observed on many occasions coming to a feeder near Cadiz, Trigg County from 11 November until the end of the season.

RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD — Last date at Han was 18 September (BW); last date in Warren County was on 11 October (DR).

YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER — One on 28 August at BNP and 1 on 20 October at MCNP (JB, PB).

OLIVE-SIDED FLYCATCHER — One on 14 September at Bern (JB, PB).

ACADIAN FLYCATCHER — One 1 October at Bel (FR).

GREAT-CRESTED FLYCATCHER — Two on 14 September at Bern (JB, PB).

HORNED LARK — 10 on 5 August in eastern Jefferson County and 15 in Bow (JB, PB); 50+ on 21 August in central Log (MB); 250+ on 1 November at McE (MS).

TREE SWALLOW — Approx. 100 on 4 October at Port area, Hic (FB); 2000+ in Fulton County on 14 October (CP).

NORTHERN ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW — Approx. 150 on 4 October at Port area, Hic (FB); 1000+ on 14 October in Fulton County (CP); 8 on 19 October at West (CM, KM).

BANK SWALLOW — 12 on 25 August at Sha (MB); approx. 50 on 4 October at Port area, Hic (FB).

CLIFF SWALLOW — Approx. 60 on 4 October at Port area, Hic (FB).

BARN SWALLOW — Approx. 200 on 4 October at Port area, Hic (FB).

FISH CROW — Five on 8 August near Murphy Pond, Obion Creek Management Area (CP); 2 on 11 November at Jon (CP).

BROWN CREEPER — Two on 24 October at TSP (JB, PB).

WINTER WREN — One on 5 October at BNP (JB, PB); one on 14 October at SSM (DR); 3 on 19 October at MCP (LMc).

SEDGE WREN — Two on 12 October at JCP (JB, PB).

MARSH WREN — One on 12 October at Slo (MB); one on 20, 25 and 30 October at Cha (DR).

GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET — One on 20 October at MCNP (JB, PB).

RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET — One on 13 September and eight on 5 October at BNP (JB, PB); one on 16 November at LPew (JWH).

GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH — One on 15 September at MCP (LMc); two on 28 September at BNP (JB, PB).

SWANSON'S THRUSH — 4 on 15 September at BNP (JB, PB); one on 17 September in central Log (MB); one on 1 October at Bel (FR).

HERMIT THRUSH — One in central Log on 1 October (MB); one on 11 October at Bern (JB, PB).

EASTERN BLUEBIRD — 4 on 24 November at TSP (JB, PB).

AMERICAN PIPIT — 4 on 14 October at McE (DR); 10 on 15 October, 30 on 17 October, 15 on 18 and 19 October at MCFH (FB); one on 19 October at West (CM, KM); one on 23 November at Jon (CP).

CEDAR WAXWING — 60+ on 11 October at Bern (JB, PB).

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE — At least eight were observed on five trips to Fulton County during the season (CP).

WHITE-EYED VIREO — One on 7 September at TSP (JB, PB).

SOLITARY VIREO — One on 27 September at TSP (JB, PB).

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO — 2 on 13 September at Bern (JB, PB); one on 21 September at MCNP (MB).

WARBLING VIREO — One on 3 September at LPew (JWH).

PHILADELPHIA VIREO — One on 31 August, one on 13 September and six on 15 September at BNP (JB, PB).

Warbler migration in northern Kentucky (Boone and surrounding counties) was above average during September (LMc); movement at MCFH was spotty (FB).

BLUE-WINGED WARBLER — 2 on 24 August and 7 September, also 3 on 13 September at BNP (JB, PB).

GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER — One on 1 September and 2 on 13 September at BNP (JB, PB); 3 on 14 September at Bern (JB, PB); two on 15 September and one on 28 September at BNP (JB, PB); 2 on 17, 20 and 24 September at DC (DR).

TENNESSEE WARBLER — 2 on 1 September at BNP (JB, PB); 7 on 14 September at Bern (JB, PB); 3 on 19 September in central Log (MB).

NASHVILLE WARBLER — One on 8 and 14 September at Bern (JB, PB).

NORTHERN PARULA — One on 13 and 15 September at BNP (JB, PB).

CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER — One on 31 August, 6 on 1 September and 7 on 7 September at BNP (JB, PB); one on 19 September in Log and 2 on 21 September at MCNP (MB).

MAGNOLIA WARBLER — Two on 31 August, 8 on 1 September and 5 on 7 September at BNP (JB, PB); 7 on 19 September in central Log and one on 21 September at MCNP (MB).

CAPE MAY WARBLER — Two on 8 September at Wav and 2 on 14 September at Bern (JB, PB).

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER — One male was seen on 7 September at MCP (LMc).

YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER - Four on 20 October at MCNP (JB, PB); 11 on 26 October at Mos (MB); flocks of 50 to 75 were present at MCFH from mid-October to mid-November (FB).

BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER — 8 on 19 September in central Log (MB); 4 on 19 October at West (CM, KM).

BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER — Three on 8 September at Wav and 4 on 14 September at Bern (JB, PB); one on 17 September in central Log (MB).

PINE WARBLER — One on 21 September at MCNP (MB).

PRAIRIE WARBLER — One on 25 August and 12 September at TSP (JB, PB).

PALM WARBLER — Three on 22 October at MCFH (FB); one at Mos on 26 October (MB).

BAY-BREASTED WARBLER — Nine at MCNP on 21 September (MB).

BLACK-AND-WHITE WARBLER — Three on 21 September at MCNP (MB); one on 1 and 7 September at BNP and 2 on 2 September at TSP (JB, PB).

AMERICAN REDSTART — Four on 1 and 7 September at BNP (JB, PB).

OVENBIRD — Four on 28 September at BNP (JB, PB); one on 21 October at Cha (MB).

MOURNING WARBLER — One at Floyd's Fork County Park on 21 September (JB, PB).

HOODED WARBLER — One on 7 September at BNP and TSP (JB, PB).

WILSON'S WARBLER — One on 31 August, four on 1 September, one on 7 and 13 September at BNP (JB, PB); one 2 September at MCP (LMc).

CANADA WARBLER — One on 1 September and 2 on 7 September at BNP (JB, PB).

SCARLET Tanager — Two were present at Bern on 14 September (JB, PB); one near LPew on 26 November (JWH).

BLUE GROSBEAK — A pair with juveniles on 1 August near Alexandria, Campbell County (FR); 3 near Madisonville, Hopkins County on 27 August; one on 5 September in eastern Log (MB).

ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK — One male on 2 September at Ten - may be the earliest fall record for Louisville (S); 30 on 28 August at BNP (JB, PB).

DICKCISSEL — One to three birds from 1 to 6 August in Hart and 2 on 13 August in Metcalfe County (MS).

VESPER SPARROW — 10 on 20 October at McE (JB, PB); one at McE on 22 October (MB); one on 22 October at Cha and one on 3 November at McE (DR).

SAVANNAH SPARROW — Numerous on 13 October at Slo and at McE (JB, PB); 6 on

13 October and 5 on 15 October at MCFH (FB); 200+ on 14 October and 150+ on 22 October at McE (DR); 20+ on 20 October at McE (MB).

GRASSHOPPER SPARROW — One on 12 October at Slo (MB); 2 on 13 October at Slo (JB, PB).

LECONTE'S SPARROW — One on 12 October at Slo (MB); one on 13 October at Slo (JB, PB).

NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW — One on 12 October at Slo (MB); one on 13 October at Slo (JB, PB).

FOX SPARROW — One on 30 October at Fre (MS); one 2 November at AJJ (FR); one on 25 and 26 at CKWA (GR).

SWAMP SPARROW — The first observation for the fall at MCFH was 6 birds on 19 October (FB); 3 at Mos on 26 October (MB).

WHITE-THROATED SPARROW — Eight on 3 October at Bel (FR); 20 in eastern Jefferson County on 12 October (DN); arrived at LPew on 11 October (JWH); first fall arrival at MCFH was on 19 October (FB); first fall observation on 20 October at Ten (S); 8 on 20 October at MCNP (JB, PB).

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW — One on 20 October at Bow (JB, PB); 8 daily since 19 October in Hart (MS); one on 14 and 26 November at CKWA (GR).

DARK-EYED JUNCO — A female at a feeder since 3 November in Ten (S).

RUSTY BLACKBIRD — Large flock on 11 November at Spi (JW); 25+ on 28 November at Mos (MB).

PURPLE FINCH — One on 25 November at CKWA (GR).

EVENING GROSBEAK — No reported observations.

Contributors - Fred Busroe (FB), Jane Bell (JB), Pat Bell (PB), Mark Bennett (MB), Joe Caminiti (JC), Hap Chambers (Hap), Joe Tom Erwin (JTE), Danny Fraley (DF), James W. Hancock (JWH), Lewis Korman (LK), Lee McNeely (LMc), Mike Miller (MM), Carl Mowery (CM), Kathy Mowery (KM), Doxie Noonan (DN), Frank Renfrow (FR), Gary Ritchison (GR), David Roemer (DR), Anne Stamm (S), Sandra Sanders (SS), Mitchell Sturgeon (MS), Albert Surmont (AS), Bonnie West (BW), Jim Williams (JW).

Observations currently under review by the Kentucky Bird Records Committee are:

RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH — from 1 June to 4 July (nesting record) - Wolfe County.

PIPER PLOVER — three records: Falls of Ohio, Jefferson County - 30 April; Chancy Lake, Warren County - 3 May; Kentucky Dam, Marshall County - 6 May.

PURPLE GALLINULE — Jackson, Breathitt County - 12 April to 9 May.

WINTER WREN — Big Black Mountain, Harlan County - 9 July.

TRI-COLORED HERON — Jefferson County - 16 May to 18 May.

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

MID-WINTER BIRD COUNT

1996-1997

Reports on 25 counts were received from across the state. A total of 121 species was recorded on count days, 114 of which are represented on the table. Those species observed on count days that are not represented on the table include: White-winged Scoter and Lesser Black-backed Gull (1 each, Land Between the Lakes), Marsh Wren (1, Paradise), American Pipit (1, Danville), Orange-crowned Warbler, Vesper Sparrow and LeConte's Sparrow (1 each, Paradise). No additional species were added by observations made during the count week. The same number of species were observed this year as last. Only seven species were observed on every count and thirteen species only on one count. The overall total number of individuals on the table includes those individuals not represented on the table.

Eleven counts were conducted either on December 21 or December 28. The temperature range for the count period was from 13°F for a low on December 21 to 70°F for a high on December 28 and January 4. The temperatures were slightly below normal at the beginning of the count period, but very warm during the middle and latter portions. The number of waterfowl appeared to be good, but down slightly compared with the number last year. This slight reduction might be an artifact of their dispersal into numerous small bodies of water formed as a result of abundant rainfall that remained open with warmer than normal temperatures. The number of Red-breasted Nuthatches was very low. The number of American Robins and Cedar Waxwings was lower than last year, perhaps due to the lack of cedar berries. Eastern Bluebird numbers have remained relatively constant for several years. Purple Finch numbers continued to remain very low. House Finch and House Sparrow numbers remained relatively constant. As always, definitive conclusions regarding short term population trends based on results of these counts are not possible. Other observations of interest can be found in the comments accompanying the description for each count.

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

Calloway County (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Douglas Cemetery.) Habitat 20% lake shore and streams, 20% deciduous and pine woods, 25% urban and residential, 35% open fields and pastures. Dec. 29; 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky partly cloudy; temp. 39° to 60°F; wind NE, 1-4 m.p.h.

Eleven observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours 40 (8.5 on foot, 31.5 by car). Total party miles 218 (8 on foot, 210 by car). Total species 76; total individuals 3,823.

Observers: Hap Chambers (compiler), Joe Tom Erwin, Rick Hokans, Joyce Hyon, Ruth Jacquot, Sally Leedom, Mike Miller, Clell Peterson, Sandra Sanders, Shari Sherwood, and Tommy Sherwood.

Land Between the Lakes (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Pisgah Bay picnic ground.) Habitat mostly wooded areas, some fields, a few small towns, Kentucky Lake and Barkley Lake. Dec. 21: 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky clear to partly cloudy, temp. 28° to 42°F; wind SW, 10-25 m.p.h.

Twenty observers in 7-9 parties. Total party-hours 45.5 (23.5 on foot, 22 by car).

Total party-miles 243.5 (22.5 on foot, 221 by car). Total species 79; total individuals 7,510.

Observers: Stephanie Askew, Mark Bennett, Hap Chambers, James Compton, Melissa Easley, Willard Gray, Bob Head, Rick Hokans, Patrick Holcomb, Joyce Hyon, Ruth Jacquot, Bill McDaniel, William McDaniel, Carl Mowery (compiler), Kathy Mowery, Clell Peterson, Darrin Samborski, Shari Sherwood, Tommy Sherwood, and Henry Yacek.

This is the lowest species count since 1982, and lowest number of individuals since 1987. An additional 13 gulls were observed but could not be identified.

Sorgho (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center 279-S and Audubon Parkway intersection.) Habitat river bottoms, farms, ponds, river, state and county parks. Jan. 1; 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky cloudy, low overcast; temp. 40° to 46°F; wind 0-8 m.p.h. Misty to light rain at times. It seemed windier at times.

Twelve observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 26 (6 on foot, 20 by car). Total party-miles 165 (9 on foot, 156 by car). Total species 50; total individuals 2,687.

Observers: Pat Augenstein, Joan Boggess, Mike Brown, Brenda Eaden, Joe Ford, Ashley Hall, Gary Hall, Neal Hayden, Janet Howard (compiler), Joyce Porter, and Tommy Stevenson.

Yelvington (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center intersection of KY 405 and 662.) Habitat river bottoms, Yellow-Creek Park, Fish and Game Farm, road ditches, and Carpenter's Lake. Dec. 28: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky overcast; temp. 68° to 65°F; wind 5 to 10 m.p.h.

Ten observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 40 (8 on foot, 32 by car). Total party-miles 45 (8 on foot, 37 by car). Total species 71; total individuals 2,779.

Observers: Marty Brown, Mike Brown, Neil Hayden, Jan Howard, Leona Kimmel, Joyce Porter, A.L. Powell (compiler), Millie Powell (feeder watchers), Marvin Ray, and Maudie Ray (feeder and pine woods at their home).

A large flock of Wild Turkeys (25) was in the pine woods behind the Ray's House. They came in to roost. Also four Wild Turkeys flew into the woods behind the Powell's house. These birds were not found on the count day, but were found on days just prior to the count period. The sighting of the Sandhill Crane was of interest also. Some of our people had to leave at noon on the count day.

Olmstead (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Junction of KY 1041 and KY 1151, six miles southwest of Russellville, Kentucky) Habitat as described in 1993. Dec. 28; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (3:00 to 5:00 a.m. owling). Sky cloudy to partly sunny; temp. 57° to 70°F; wind S, 0-20 m.p.h.

Two observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 10 (3 on foot, 7 by car). Total party-miles 98 (4 on foot, 94 by car). Total species 63; total individuals 5,475.

Observer: Mark Bennett (compiler), David Roemer. Feeder watchers: Tommie Bail Bennett, Andrew Bennett, Becky Christmas, Kathy Dotson, Shirley Haines, Gene McDonald, Nell Ripley, Norma Taylor, and Francis Wheller.

The addition of feeder watchers enhanced the count even though warm temperatures lowered the number of birds at feeders. Recent heavy rains increased water levels in Mosley's Pond and caused many "potholes" to form. Very cold weather the week prior to the count froze bodies of water, thereby reducing the number of waterfowl. Extreme logging at Mosley's Pond may eventually force most birding to occur by boat. Count highlights includ-

ed Snipe, Canvasback, Redhead and Horned Lark. The increase in the number of individuals was due mainly to Starlings.

Paradise (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1993.) Habitat as described in 1993. Jan. 1; 5:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 44° to 51°F; wind W, 0-8 m.p.h. All water open.

Twelve observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 34 (13 on foot, 21 by car). Total party-miles 214.5 (4.5 on foot, 210 by car). Total species 88; total individuals 43,158.

Observers: Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Mark Bennett, Michael Bierly, Doris Clay, Kathryn Clay, Mike Henshaw, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler), Don Parker, Danny Peake, Robert Rold, and Eric Williams.

Highlights of the count were mostly lingering fall migrants. They included a Marsh Wren in the exact same location in Muhlenberg County where a bird was found on the 1994-1995 count (4th winter record for Kentucky); an Orange-crowned Warbler studied closely in a Virginia pine thicket in eastern Muhlenberg County (5th winter record for Kentucky); single Chipping and Vesper sparrows observed well near the Paradise Steam Plant; and a LeConte's Sparrow flushed from thick, grassy cover on the Gibraltar mine, about 0.5 miles from where one was found on the 1993-1994 count. Water was completely open, and waterfowl were dispersed in most parts of the count circle; however 14 species were found, including an adult Tundra Swan on the Gibraltar mine in Muhlenberg County. The Dreary, calm day was not conducive for observing raptors, and most species were found in abnormally low numbers. The Red-tailed Hawk total includes one individual of the Krider's race. Not included in the total were tens of thousands of unidentified black-birds (likely mostly grackles and red-wings) that were observed flying over during the day. One *Accipiter* species was also observed.

Bowling Green (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Three Springs, six miles south of Bowling Green.) Habitat deciduous forest 20%, fields and pastures 60%, and town and parks 20%. Dec. 22; 6:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky rain in morning, mostly cloudy p.m.; temp. 32° to 53°F; wind S, 10-15 m.p.h.

Six observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 27 (9 on foot, 18 by car). Total party-miles 174 (6 on foot, 168 by car). Total species 70; total individuals 11,774.

Observers: Lester Doyle, Blaine Ferrell (compiler), Wayne Mason, Marvin Russell, David Roemer, and Herbert E. Shadowen.

Mammoth Cave National Park (Center and habitat as described in 1980.) Dec. 23; 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sky partly cloudy; temp. 52° to 62°F; wind S, 15-20 m.p.h.

Four observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 13 (4 on foot, 9 by car). Total party-miles 95 (9 on foot, 86 by car). Total species 45; total individuals 1,425.

Observers: Clint Blankenship, Lester Doyle, Blaine Ferrell (compiler), Elizabeth Ferrell, and Wayne Mason.

Glasgow (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1986.) Habitat as described in 1986. Dec. 29; 6:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky partly cloudy a.m., clear by afternoon; temp. 54° to 68°F; wind 0 m.p.h. Unusually warm for this count.

Seven observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 25.75 (9.75 on foot, 16.00 by car). Total party-miles 55.5 (11 on foot, 44.5 by car). Total species 59; total individuals 3,359.

Observers: Clint Blankenship, Lester Doyle, Marquita Gillenwater, Mae Dean Kinslow, Wayne M. Mason (compiler), Billie Mae Moore, and Emma Jean Pitcock.

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**MID-WINTER
BIRD COUNT
1996-1997**

	CALLOWAY COUNTY	LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES	SORGOH	YELVINGTON	OLMSTEAD	PARADISE	BOWLING GREEN	MAMMOTH CAVE NATL PARK	GLASGOW	FALLS OF ROUGH	HART COUNTY	GREEN RIVER LAKE	OTTER CREEK	BERNHEIM FOREST	LOUISVILLE	SHELBYVILLE	FRANKFORT	KLEBER WMA	DANVILLE	LEXINGTON	BURLINGTON	WARSAW	RICHMOND	SOMERSET	PERRY COUNTY	TOTAL	
COMMON LOON	1			1								3															6
PIED-B. GREBE	27	49		2	10	35	3		7		4	5	2	2	5	3	1		2	28			13	7			203
HORNED GREBE	10	19							4*		1	1			6					7			11	2			32
D.-CR. CORMORANT		150				1			1			2	6	14	3	3	8		9	26		30	8	9			176
GREAT BLUE HERON	37	49		16	1	30	1	1	7	4	3	2	6	6	14	3	8		9	26	9	30	8	9			284
BLACK-CR. NIGHT-HERON															8												8
TUNDRA SWAN						1																	1				2
SNOW GOOSE						1				1									2	1							5
CANADA GOOSE	59	235	7	32		1330	70			13	13	1	52	298	614	14	223		206	967	162	267	195	7	3		4755
WOOD DUCK				2			2*	7		24					33				8		1						75
GREEN-WINGED TEAL		35				40					1	1			2				1				48				127
AM. BLACK DUCK	4	37				52	4				5	5	2	2	93			5	8	12	52	47	7	7		328	
MALLARD	49	235	150	5	8	634	491	21	9	87	102	42	150	3038	12	86		97	816	116	256	223	160	12		6799	
NORTHERN PINTAIL		2				5									2					2	1			3			15
BLUE-WINGED TEAL																											2
NORTHERN SHOVELER						6						1			6					54		1	5	2			74
GADWALL	45	41				62	3								64				9	27	6	3	2	12			275
AM. WIGEON		2				8	4						2	2	23				2	5		2	9	3			65
CANVASBACK		2				1*									5								10				19
REDHEAD							2												*	2		1					7
RING-NECKED DUCK		34	44			230			1*				3	111	1		1		2	9	2	2	119	16			576
GREATER SCAUP							4								1					54		9					64
LESSER SCAUP		82										2		22						27		10	11				183
COMMON GOLDENEYE		21	93				4							13						2				2			131

1	49	1	10	1	24	2	6	2	72
2	311	3	5	5		3	80	2	457
1	9	4						7	13
2									3
4	17	4	2	2	1	1	96	10	136
24		10	77	1	20	12	4	33	52
44	2	1	22	3	300	30	2	17	37
7	33			1	6	2			39
3					6				51
3					1	3	4		1
1					2	3	4		1
1					6	4			7
2					1	14			3
5	8				3	2	2	2	2
20	38	18	10	13	46	12	5	6	23
					5	18	25	50	21
					9				9
					1				1
					2				1
26	3	38	23	20	21	16	33	28	31
					11	16	16	33	28
					15	16	33	28	31
					15	16	33	28	31
					15	16	33	28	31
6	82		7	74	33	9	50		45
1	25	10	10	15	12				12
39	61	75	4	18	177	18	1		13
					1				15
					1				2
2	14		8	50	1	42	1	3	4
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					5	7			1
					1				2
					1				2
9	258				4				29
428	3112		10		707				10
4	24				2				2
83	31	4	20	13	2766	2	47	10	27
225	21	50	138	70	179	168	7	49	13
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BIRD COUNT
1996-1997**

	CALLOWAY COUNTY	LAND BETWEEN THE LAKES	SORGHO	YELVINGTON	OLMSTEAD	PARADISE	BOWLING GREEN	MAMMOTH CAVE NAT'L PARK	GLASGOW	FALLS OF ROUGH	HART COUNTY	GREEN RIVER LAKE	OTTER CREEK	BERNHHEIM FOREST	LOUISVILLE	SHELBYVILLE	FRANKFORT	KLEBER WMA	DANVILLE	LEXINGTON	BURLINGTON	WARSAW	RICHMOND	SOMERSET	PERRY COUNTY	TOTAL
DOWNY WOODPECKER	28	29	13	37	21	26	25	10	10	10	12	9	18	27	60	11	33	9	20	49	42	29	18	29		575
HAIRY WOODPECKER	3	5	3	7	5	10	3	1	2	2	2	3	3	9	9	2	2	9	4	7	7	8	1	6		110
NORTHERN FLICKER	37	19	23	20	12	34	37	13	16	8	21	12	15	20	17	3	7	6	4	20	12	14	24	8		402
PILEATED WOODPECKER	8	20	3	1		11	8	12	3	2	3	5	10	16	8	*	2	8	4	4	3	4	5	10		155
EASTERN PHOEBE				1			1	1							1				4	1						5
HORNED LARK			111	112	264	73	135			8	60	2	44	44	18	*		*	35	44						906
BLUE JAY	135	26	57	64	67	88	32	39	54	25	99	58	189	209	117	27	83	28	63	87	53	70	84	171		1925
AM. CROW	160	60	52	33	12	109	257	30	116	116	79	60	386	343	553	83	102	187	113	388	205	164	101	371	4	4064
CAROLINA CHICKADEE	85	102	44	50	49	93	71	23	28	19	17	65	42	223	262	13	88	42	90	136	135	60	82	96		1915
TUFTED TITMOUSE	99	110	18	32	22	40	51	24	21	14	25	55	50	138	122	24	47	12	61	76	78	50	42	50		1261
RED-BR. NUTHATCH	4								2*						1	1			1	1		1				8
WHITE-BR. NUTHATCH	20	54	11	14	10	3	9	3	10	11	12	10	27	41	26	2	8	10	6	5	25	9	7	18	1	352
BROWN CREEPER	2	4	2	1		1	3	1	1		1		2	3	15	4	1		5	7	7	3	1			60
CAROLINA WREN	51	78	32	36	30	61	31	9	33	8	29	26	17	72	66	4	22	15	28	69	56	29	16	17	2	837
WINTER WREN	2	*1		1	1	4	2	2	1			3		1	2											18
GOLDEN-CR. KINGLET	4	25		1	1	22	5	13	4*	5	1	4	34	101	33	2	2	2	3	6	13	30	4	3		310
RUBY-CR. KINGLET	3			1	1	9	2	1	1		1		8	2	1	1	2	2	3	3				5		39
EASTERN BLUEBIRD	145	76	18	61	59	59	63	8	42	31	91	67	94	133	15	37	38	26	105	187	24	23	87	142		1631
HERMIT THRUSH	1	4		2		5			1			2	2	1					2	2						19
AMERICAN ROBIN	6	18	11	64	71	19	85	472	15	59	52	244	4	110	594	*	15	58	6	249	16	8	7	69		2252
N. MOCKINGBIRD	30	8	28	17	24	5	21	2	18	10	7	4	7	31	50	21	8	2	41	53	13	8	15	38		461
BROWN THRASHER	3			2	2	1			2		1		1	1					*							13
GRAY CATBIRD															1				3				1			5
CEDAR WAXWING	17			20	12	9	27	236	12	16	15	37	9	9	18	2	10	12	20	1	1	11				484

LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE	2	2	4	4	2	1	1	3	3	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	24						
EUROPEAN STARLING	496	693	991	400	2091	1017	5840	39	1051	279	6143	242	484	1472	18210	640	951	262	4663	5415	814	1737	1534	12579	68043	
YELLOW-R. WARBLER	7	1	1	25	6	46	31	86	8	18	10	49	12	82	1	5	3	6	18	6	20	2	15	438		
PINE WARBLER							1																	2		
PALM WARBLER													1							5				6		
N. CARDINAL	265	188	120	142	117	123	128	16	49	52	38	138	125	278	482	79	142	37	250	262	152	197	185	108	2	3625
EASTERN TOWHEE	52	29	12	18	26	16	38	4	18	5	9	9	8	28	20	2	5	6	2	3	24	28	5	8	375	
AM. TREE SPARROW	4	1	4	6		26	2			1			1		5			1			26	16	2		95	
CHIPPING SPARROW						1	3		2									6							12	
FIELD SPARROW	11	12	2	8	2	46	68	41	111	2	21	28	24	71	35	3	6	21	28	45	32	82	47	746		
SAVANNAH SPARROW						14	2						2										2		21	
FOX SPARROW	3					2	3	5	24	1	2	1		1			1			1			4	48		
SONG SPARROW	18	15	67	50	41	201	106	27	117	10	49	99	39	77	216	3	32	6	61	94	69	164	112	53	2	1728
SWAMP SPARROW	9	7	3	2	5	126	14	2	22	1	9	8		14	3					1	3	5	42		275	
WHITE-THR. SPARROW	224	77	15	67	82	95	278	89	220	9	53	112	39	77	192	10	72	5	61	241	21	53	93	120	20	2625
WHITE-OR. SPARROW	6		30	28		15	8		2	2	10	5	8	46	12	15		58	71	7	61	5	20		409	
DARK-EYED JUNCO	158	306	25	125	25	107	140	48	12	116	32	75	436	419	304	30	173	66	49	82	113	227	109	140		3317
LAPLAND LONGSPUR							5																		5	
RED-W. BLACKBIRD	61	150	77	426	765	11932	42			29			55	2	1*	*		2		2	3		3		1327	
EASTERN MEADOWLARK	72	27	20	77	38	90	59		31	18	68	28	52	12	15	9	32	23	20	20	1	48	27	36	4	807
RUSTY BLACKBIRD	1		50	1	30	2								10		*		2								96
COMMON GRACKLE	5	150	521	25241	19	15		15		39			14	14	1		122	1		122	1	8	1	500		26637
BROWN-H. COWBIRD	251	1	35	205	606	12	121		14		14		1	10	*		2	320		2	3		2		1583	
PURPLE FINCH	17			1	1*	1*	1*	28	2	1	7		1	5	2	2	10	22	2			35			135	
HOUSE FINCH	43	23	52	90	11	37	121		55	113	12	66	117	52	443	22	161	1	143	194	50	162	269	154		2391
RED CROSSBILL																									13	
PINE SISKIN																									2	
AM. GOLDFINCH	17	49	18	40	31	86	28	25	34	23	39	50	42	22	198	12	88	55	40	120	95	21	156	111	12	1412
HOUSE SPARROW	22	43	172	129	75	37	146		21	39	152	79	35	189	465	89	116	3	183	362	55	66	49	166		2692
DAY OF COUNT	D29	D21	J1	D28	D28	J1	D22	D23	D29	D21	J3	J5	D21	D28	D22	D29	D21	D28	D31	D28	D28	D21	D30	J4	D18	
NUMBER OF SPECIES	76	79	50	71	63	88	70	45	59	50	55	60	55	73	82	43	50	35	64	79	58	61	65	65	20	
INDIVIDUALS	3623	7510	2667	2779	5475	43158	11774	1425	3359	1301	7699	3337	2862	5230	28368	1456	2919	1143	7160	12278	3033	4767	4562	16038	71	184214
OBSERVERS	11	20	12	10	2	12	6	4	7	5	8	4	4	12	10	33	4	11	6	27	35	19	7	11	11	17

The unseasonably warm weather allowed heavy boat traffic on the reservoir, thus waterfowl numbers are much lower than usual for this count. This is the first count in recent memory where blackbirds and cowbirds are so sorely lacking.

Falls of Rough (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Short Creek, Kentucky at the intersection of Highway 79 and Highway 54.) Habitat woodland, cultivated fields, Rough River Lake, Rough River State Park, river bottoms, watershed lakes, ponds, old fields, and yard feeders. Dec. 21; 6:30 a.m. to 4:47 p.m. Sky partly cloudy; temp. 20° to 38°F; wind 8-18 m.p.h. So windy that birds were hard to find except in protected pockets out of the wind.

Five observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 15 (3 on foot, 12 by car). Total party-miles 128.5 (4.5 on foot, 124 by car). Total species 50; total individuals 1,301.

Observers: Pat Augenstein, Kathryn Clay, Mary Harrel, Neal Hayden, and Joyce Porter (compiler).

Caneyville Reservoir was completely devoid of birds, even along the shoreline and woods nearby, and it was frozen almost to the middle of the lake. The same was true for Pine Knob Lake due to the below freezing temperatures on days preceding the count with a low of 13°F on December 19 and 5°F on December 20. Two of the Yellow-rumped Warblers were the Audubon race.

Hart County (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Craddock Lane and Gerald's Lane.) Habitat rural, farms, woodlots, Green River, and Hundred Acre Pond. Jan. 3; 6:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky mostly sunny; temp. 60° to 68°F.

Eight observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 10.5 (6 on foot, 4.5 by car). Total party-miles 85 (5 on foot, 80 by car). Total species 55; total individuals 7,699.

Observers: Bruce Bardin, John Brittain, Lisa Brittain, Carol Friedman, Logan Kistler, Steve Kistler (compiler), Randy Sullivan, and Chuck Wuertzer.

Green River Lake (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Green River Memorial Baptist Church, Taylor County, Kentucky.) Habitat as described in 1996. Jan. 5; 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky overcast; temp. 45° to 58°F; wind 5-25 m.p.h. Very windy all day.

Four observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 19.5 (13.5 on foot, 6 by car). Total party-miles 106.5 (8.5 on foot, 98 by car). Total species 60; total individuals 3,337.

Observers: Richard Cassell, Lloyd C. Curry (compiler), Richard Kessler, and Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

Windy conditions drove most water birds to protected areas against the shoreline; other birds moved to dense growth. The oddity of the day was almost stepping on a very active common water snake. A large owl was observed but could not be identified.

Otter Creek Park (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1972.) Habitat brushy fields 22%, woodlands 26%, farmlands 38%, ponds, creeks, lake, and river 14%. Dec. 21; 8:00 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Sky cloudy to clear; temp. 17° to 39°F; wind N, 10-15 m.p.h. Ponds were frozen; river and lake open. About one inch of snow was on the ground.

Twelve observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 36 (14.25 on foot, 21.75 by car). Total party-miles 232 (17 on foot, 215 by car). Total species 55; total individuals 2,862.

Observers: Mary B. Bauer, Frank H. Krull, John Krull, Celia Lawrence, Joyce Metzger, Diane Miller, Robert Miller, Doxie Noonan, Jim Pasikowski, Helga Schutte,

Anne Stamm (compiler), and Edwin Toone.

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The natural food supply was relatively low. Juniper trees were without berries. Agricultural fields were the only major source of food readily available. Some fields were not completely harvested and some of those harvested had an abundant supply of waste grain such as corn, wheat, etc.

Bernheim Forest (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1974.) Habitat as described in 1974. Dec. 28; 6:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky mostly cloudy; temp. 52° to 65°F; wind SW, 5-15 m.p.h. All water open.

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Observers: Alan Barron, Mary Bill Bauer, Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Jerry Coomes, David Jennings, Tim Love, Mark Monroe, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (compiler), and Martha Pike.

Weather for the count was fairly good, although a steady breeze may have kept land bird numbers down to some extent. The species total (73) represented a new count record, eclipsing the 72 species found in 1985-86. The day's highlight was the flock of Red Crossbills, studied at leisure within the Forest's arboretum area; this is the first report of the species in Kentucky in several years. Also present were at least two Golden Eagles, an adult and an immature. Waterfowl were scarce again this year, as were berry-eating species. Winter finches (other than the crossbills) were also low in numbers or absent. The Red-tailed Hawk total includes one dark morph Harlan's Hawk, which was found in the same Nelson County location as the previous year and likely the same individual.

Louisville (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Jct. Hwys. 42 and 22, as described in 1972.) Habitat as described in 1972. Dec. 22; 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 36° to 46°F; wind S, 18 m.p.h.

Thirty three observers in 16 parties. Total party-hours 79.25 (33.75 on foot, 45.5 by car). Total party-miles 447.50 (32.75 on foot, 414.75 by car). Total species 82; total individuals 28,368.

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Thirty three observers in 16 parties. Total party-hours 79.25 (33.75 on foot, 45.5 by car). Total party-miles 447.50 (32.75 on foot, 414.75 by car). Total species 82; total individuals 28,368.

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There was a large increase in the number of Mallards. Other interesting sightings include three Peregrine Falcons, an Eastern Phoebe, a Brown Thrasher, and a Gray Catbird.

Shelbyville (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center three quarters of a mile south of U.S. 60 and Guist Creek Lake on KY 714.) Habitat elevation 640'-1190', farmland, fallow land, suburban, wooded, and grassland. Dec. 29; 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky partly sunny; temp. 55° to 62°F; wind SW, 10 m.p.h.

Four observers in 2 parties. Total party-hours 16 (1 on foot, 15 by car). Total party-miles 185 (0.5 on foot, 184.5 by car). Total species 43; total individuals 1,456.

Observers: Iris Brown, Joan Brown, Sean Brown, W.H. Brown (compiler), and Rich Eilers.

Frankfort (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1972.) Habitat as described in 1977. Dec. 21; 7:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky partly cloudy; temp. 16° to 35°F; wind WSW, 0-5 m.p.h.

Eleven observers in 6 parties. Total party-hours 33.25 (11.25 on foot, 22 by car). Total party-miles 258.5 (12 on foot, 246.5 by car). One person 3.5 hours at a feeder. Total species 50; total individuals 2,919.

Observers: James Derryberry, Margaret Derryberry, Jim Durell, Peggy Gould (Compiler), Ralph Gould, Scott Hankla, Virginia Honaker, Susan Laurenson, Robert Laurenson, Amy Williams, Fred Williams, and Tim Williams.

Hackberry was abundant, along with bush honeysuckle, bittersweet, and white ash.

Kleber Wildlife Management Area (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center as described in 1977.) Habitat as described in 1977. Dec. 28; 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky partly cloudy; temp. 51° to 66°F; wind SSW, 10-25 m.p.h. Unseasonably warm.

Six observers in 3 parties. Total party-hours 18.5 (6.5 on foot, 12.0 by car). Total party-miles 115 (6 on foot, 109 by car). Total species 35; total individuals 1,143.

Observers: Joe Burgess, Jim Durell, Peggy Gould (compiler), Ralph Gould, Pat Hankla, and Scott Hankla.

Danville (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Boyle County Courthouse.) Habitat as described before. Dec. 31; 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 51° to 58°F; wind calm.

Twenty seven observers in 9 parties. Total party-hours 54.50 (12.25 on foot, 42.25 by car). Total party-miles 485 (19.5 on foot, 465.5 by car). Total species 64; total individuals 7,160.

Observers: Ron Barbato, Joanne Bright, Bob Corcoran, Ginny Eklund, Neil Eklund (compiler), Martha Foster, Tobin Foster, Nancy Gentry, JoAnn Hamm, Michael Hamm, Dorothy Belle Hill, Tom Kearns, J.W. Kemper, Sara Lamb, F.W. Loetscher, Eric Mount, Jack Newton, Alex Nichols, John B. Nichols, Danice Nutter, Rob Pendencygraft, Herb Pititjean, Jack Pogue, Louise Robinson, Lee Russell, Marvon Smith, and Betty Ullrich.

Four Blue Geese were observed during the count day, but not included on the table.

Lexington (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center near East Hickman Church on Tates Creek Road.) Habitat mixed residential and farmland. Dec. 28; 7:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sky clear; temp. 56°C to 65°C; wind SW, 8 m.p.h.

Thirty six observers in 13 parties. Total party-hours 70 (25 on foot, 45 by car). Total party-miles 688 (35 on foot, 653 by car). Total species 79; total individuals 12,278.

Observers: Amy Allen, Earl Boggs, Earl E. Boggs, Gary Boggs, Mable Boggs, Michael Boggs, Stewart Butler, Julie Byron, Rose Canon, Jan Davis, Phyllis Deal, Linda Dryer, Doris Ferm, Fran Koontz, Terri Koontz, Kean Flynn, Mike Flynn, James Hodge, Allen Kingsland, James Knoblett, Jeff Knoblett, Betty Maxson, Mark Morgan, Robert L. Morris (compiler), Andrew Neilson, Matthew Nielson, Kim Olson, Art Ricketts, Tina Ricketts, Ed Seiler, Harry Smith, Charles Susie, Marie Sutton, Jim Williams, Bernice Wood, and Andy Uterhart.

The food supply seemed very low this year.

Burlington (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center near Camp Michaels.) Habitat as described in 1992. Dec. 28; 6:15 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky partly sunny to cloudy; temp. 57° to 65°F; wind SW, 8-21 m.p.h. All water open.

Nineteen observers in 7 parties. Total party-hours 42.5 (27.5 on foot, 15 by car). Total party-miles 190 (11 on foot, 179 by car). Total species 58; total individuals 3,033.

Observers: Karl Anderson, Joe Caminiti, Joey Caminiti, Kathy Caminiti, Sherry Carran, Elaine Carroll, Greg Cunningham, Melissa Desjardin, Kevin Flowers, Ed Groneman, Maria McLean, Lee McNeely (compiler), Gayle Pille, Karen Puckett, Carmen Schulte, Tommy Stephens, and Gene Wolfe. Feeder Watchers: Marjorie Hill and Lynda McNeely.

Usually mild temperatures may have contributed to the lower-than normal number of species. The majority of the vultures were found at the East Bend Power Plant.

Warsaw (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Gallatin County courthouse.) Habitat as described in 1992. Dec. 21; 7:15 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sky overcast to partly sunny; temp. 13° to 24°F; wind S, 8-20 m.p.h. Most water frozen, Ohio River open.

Seven observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 28 (15 on foot, 13 by car). Total party-miles 149 (7 on foot, 142 by car). Total species 61; total individuals 4,767.

Observers: Joe Caminiti, Joey Caminiti, Kathy Caminiti, Kevin Flowers, Frank Lewandowski, Lee McNeely (compiler), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

The majority of the waterfowl and the Short-eared Owl were present at the Ghent Power Plant. For the first time in seven years, no Black Vultures were found. An accipiter was observed but not identified.

Richmond (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center three quarters of a mile north of intersection of Bobtown.) Habitat road and the Kingston-Berea Road, 40% fence rows and road sides, 20% woodland, 30% pastureland and open fields, and 10% lawns. Dec. 30; 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sky partly cloudy to cloudy; temp. 41°C to 59°C; wind SW, 0-5 m.p.h. Began raining at 5:00 p.m.

Eleven observers in 5 parties. Total party-hours 31 (13.5 on foot, 17.5 by car). Total party-miles 275.5 (14.5 on foot, 261 by car). Total species 65; total individuals 4,562.

Observers: Geoff Carter, Jennifer Cofer, Seth Husted, Chris Kirk, Randy Mowrer, Thomas Oliver, Danny Peake, Brandon Ritchison, Gary Ritchison (compiler), Tammy Ritchison, and Eric Williams.

Somerset (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center at the junction of Bypass E. 80 and Highway 39, Crab Orchard Road.) Habitat water edge 23%, cultivated 5.25%, wooded and edge 25.75%, urban 7%, field/fence 37% and feeder 2%. Jan. 4; 5:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 57° to 70°F; wind SW, 5-25 m.p.h.

Eleven observers in 4 parties. Total party-hours 36.25 (16.25 on foot, 20 by car).

Total party-miles 296.50 (10.75 on foot, 285.75 by car). Total species 65; total individuals 16,038.

Observers: Judy Brant, Jean Brickell, Lois Dale, Roseanna Denton (compiler), Steve Denton, Gay Hodges, Mary Kissel, Linda McClendon, Bob Murphy, Jim York, and Margaret York.

Additional comments: Four feeder watchers, Jim Hodges, Gary McClendon, Mary Moss, and Betty Richards, helped

Perry County (all points within a 15-mile diameter circle, center Cypress Amax Wildlife Area.) Habitat reclaimed strip mine, pond, woodland, and edge. Dec. 18; 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Sky cloudy; temp. 15° to 20°F; wind calm. Very cold day.

Seventeen observers in 1 party. Total party-hours 4. Total species 20; total individuals 71.

Observers: Rhonda Anderson, Travis Baker, Jim Boggs, Bill Bush, Jeremy Cantrell, Karsten Colwell, Chris Combs, Jonathan Deaton, Jessie Hickman, Cynthia Jent, Jeremy Howard, John Minter, Brian Oliver, Don Spencer (compiler), Everett Spencer, Makisha Stamper, and Crissy Thornton.

Count was short because the high school kids had to get back to school. The reclaimed strip mine area is still new and did not provide a habitat for some species. Woodland area was small and broken up by mining. Here in southeastern Kentucky, most species are doing well. The large areas of open grassland left behind by surface mining probably will change the populations of birds somewhat. Great Horned Owls are getting hard to find as is the Barn Owl. The latter probably because of the decrease in farming and agriculture in the area.

AVIFAUNA USE OF CONSTRUCTED WETLANDS IN THE CAVE RUN LAKE AREA

APRIL HAIGHT AND BRIAN C. REEDER
DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES,
MOREHEAD STATE UNIVERSITY

INTRODUCTION

Eighty percent of America's breeding bird population, and more than 50% of the 800 species of protected migratory birds, rely on wetlands (Wharton *et al.* 1982). Wetlands are rare in the Daniel Boone National Forest; therefore, fifty wetlands covering an area of 24 ha have been constructed since 1989 to encourage the establishment of wetland flora and fauna. A primary goal of this wetland creation project is to establish waterfowl populations in the Cave Run Lake area. Our goal was to determine if the constructed wetlands are indeed attracting wetland bird communities. We gauged their success by comparing bird communities dependent upon wetlands for part of their life cycle in the constructed wetlands with those found in a nearby natural wetland. We also examined physiognomic habitat differences in the wetlands, and differences in wetland size, to determine if those factors affected bird species diversity and richness.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Site Description

The constructed wetlands are located southwest of Cave Run Lake in the beaver Creek Wetland Complex of Daniel Boone National Forest, Morehead Ranger District, in Menifee County. The complex contains 37 wetlands. The sites used for this study represent a range of sizes, ages, and habitat characteristics (Table 1). The sites are all effected to some degree by water-level manipulation at Cave Run Lake and have been allowed to establish vegetation naturally (no planting was done). The wetlands are surrounded by steep wooded slopes on the upland side; Cave Run Lake lies to their downland side. In addition to woodland habitat, approximately 22 ha of corn, wheat, grass, clover fields have been planted near the wetlands. Over 60 nesting platforms for Canada geese and over 180 Wood Duck nesting boxes were also placed near the wetlands. Water depth at the sites remained fairly constant, varying only by 10 cm. Two of the wetlands were drawn-down during the study period. The natural wetland (control site) is located near the Minor E. Clark Fish Hatchery (120 ha), in Farmers, Kentucky and the Licking River. This 1.8 ha wetland is an oxbow of the Licking River completely surrounded by bottomland forest.

Observations

Avifauna were observed approximately every other week from April-December 1995. Each wetland was approached as quietly as possible. Upon reaching the wetland, birds were observed and counted. Observation dates were: April 4, 29; May 21; June 5, 18, 22, 23, 24; July 9, 10, 22; August 5, 19; September 2, 23; October 7, 8, 28; November 11, 25; and December 8, 9. Observations were usually made before 12:00 pm.

Obligate bird species (birds dependent upon wetlands for part of their life cycle) were determined based upon general knowledge and published observation. These included: Great Blue Heron, Green-backed Heron, American Bittern, Great Egret, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, American Black Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Redhead, Ring-

necked Duck, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Hooded Merganser, Belted Kingfisher, Swamp Sparrow, and Red-winged Blackbird (Grover and Baldassarre 1995).

Habitat diversity or horizontal habitat was evaluated using Shannon's index of habitat diversity (as described in Brower *et al.* 1989). Habitat categories (emergent vegetation, open water, shrubs, and trees) were determined as percent cover. Open water included submergent vegetation. Small willow trees (≤ 1.52 m) were included as shrubs. Shrubs were only included if they were standing in the water when the wetland was at full capacity. The percent cover was estimated based on field observation and wetland morphology maps. Bird species diversity was calculated by using Shannon's index. Statistical analysis utilized the software Statview 4.0 for PowerMacintosh. A significance level of 0.10 was chosen for all analyses.

TABLE 1. Characteristics of wetland study sites near Cave Run Lake.

Wetland	Size (ha)	Wood Duck Boxes	Goose Platforms	Drawn-Down	Habitat Diversity
1	1.9	2	0	yes	0.440
13	1.2	0	1	no	0.150
18	1.3	2	1	no	0.589
21	0.8	0	2	no	0.342
29	0.4	0	0	yes	0.476
control	1.8	0	0	—	0.440

TABLE 2. Avifauna diversity and richness of six wetlands in the Cave Run Lake watershed.

Wetland	Species Richness	Obligate Richness	Species Abundance	Obligate	Species Diversity
1	18	12	220	37%	1.227
13	6	4	57	75%	0.842
18	25	11	153	78%	1.091
21	23	10	148	58%	1.176
29	18	6	87	41%	1.173
control	15	11	118	85%	1.118

RESULTS

Avifauna Observations

Over the course of the study 783 birds, consisting of 48 species, were counted. Of the 783 individuals, 59% of the avifauna were obligate species. Canada Geese were found in the greatest numbers (107). Mallards were the second most observed bird species (75

individuals), followed by Red-winged Black Birds (59 individuals). Wild Turkeys were observed more than any other non-wetland species (55 individuals) — of which 48 were observed at one time.

The control site had the highest percentage of obligate species (85%) and wetland 1 had the lowest (37%). Wetlands 13 and 29 had few obligate species. Wetland 13 had the fewest total species, but 4 out of 6 were obligates; wetland 29 had a variety of upland bird species utilizing the nearby shrubs and sycamores; however, only six species observed there relied on wetland habitats. The constructed wetlands with the greatest richness, 18 and 21, attracted and supported many of the obligate species found in the control site, in addition to many upland species. The other three wetlands did not attract all the obligate species found in the control site.

Wetland size did not significantly correlate with species abundance ($r = 0.510$), richness ($r = -0.152$) or diversity ($r = 0.026$). Habitat diversity was significantly correlated to avifauna species richness ($r = 0.792$; $p = 0.06$), but not diversity ($r = 0.068$), or abundance ($r = 0.517$). Wetlands with more open water had significantly lower habitat diversity ($r = -0.752$; $p = 0.09$); however, this was not a definitive factor in determining abundance ($r = -0.333$), diversity ($r = -0.397$), richness ($r = -0.484$), or percentage of obligate species ($r = -0.449$).

Breeding evidence at the wetlands as observed on May 2, June 5 and 22. A female Hooded Merganser was spotted, on May 2, at wetland 21 with five ducklings. Previous to this sighting, breeding Hooded Mergansers had not been found east of Louisville (Fed Busroe, *personal communication*). At wetland 18, nine of the thirteen Canada Geese observed were goslings. On the June 22 visit, an unhatched goose egg was found at wetland 18 in the goose platform. Three young Wood Ducks were seen in boxes at wetland 1 on June 5.

DISCUSSION

We assumed there would be a correlation between habitat richness and species richness — which we found. This suggests that if more niches are available; more species will be found. However, our expectation was that these species would be observed in similar abundances to natural wetlands — which our data shows they were not. Although the number of species observed increased as habitat diversity increased, habitat diversity did not correlate with avian abundance, or diversity.

Wetlands 13 and 29 appear to be the least successful, because they are not attracting either the number or diversity of obligate birds the other wetlands are producing. Wetland 29 is, from the standpoint of bird species, practically an upland habitat. This observation suggests that these two wetlands are not providing the same ecosystem functions as a natural wetland. The other three constructed wetlands more closely resemble the control community, but they are attracting greater numbers of birds and species. This could be because they are in a transition stage, or they may be attracting unsustainable bird numbers and diversity.

Farnes (1995) suggests a 50:50 ratio of open water to emergent vegetation is optimal for duck populations. Ponds for diving ducks tend to be deeper and have less emergent vegetation (Lokemoen and Woodward 1992). We found the three wetlands with the highest species diversity (1, 21, 29) had 65% to 77% open water; however, neither the diversity of surrounding habitat nor the diversity of wetland vegetation and open water increased avian species richness. In fact, we found a negative relationship between open water habitat and the percentage of obligate bird species. Open water, therefore, is not as

important to establishment of wetland avifauna as the presence of a variety of wetland habitats — such as emergent vegetation.

Island biogeographic theory would predict that the larger wetlands would have a greater species diversity and richness. Craig and Beal (1992) found that diversity increased with marsh size in a study of over 90 Wyoming wetlands. However, recent studies of beaver ponds did not find any correlation (Grover and Baldassre, 1995). Similarly, we found no correlation between wetland size and species richness or diversity. It is probable that “island biogeographic-like” increases in diversity are not common in either natural or constructed wetlands. A variety of available wetland depths and habitats is probably more important at increasing richness, rather than size alone.

Because there are abundant avifauna using the constructed wetlands, we can conclude that they are successful in their goal of increasing use by species dependent upon wetland for part or all of their life cycle. Breeding activity is strong evidence that some of these systems have ecosystem structures and functions similar to natural wetlands. However, none of the wetlands were able to attract obligate species in the same relative abundances as the natural wetland. Two sites were unable to attract as many obligate species as the control — despite enhancements that should make them attractive (such as grain fields, boxes, and nesting platforms). Therefore, we would suggest that constructed wetlands, even if given many years to establish, cannot replace all the functional attributes of natural wetlands.

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FIFTH REPORT OF THE KENTUCKY BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE

LEE K. MCNEELY, SECRETARY

This report is the fifth from the Kentucky Bird Records Committee (hereafter KBRC), and covers actions completed during the calendar year 1996. Members serving on the committee during this period were Blaine Ferrell, Wayne Mason, Lee McNeely, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and Anne Stamm. The stated purpose of the KBRC is to determine the validity of records of rare birds within Kentucky, maintain the documentation for these records, and to publish a summary of the committee's deliberations.

In 1996 there were three rounds of circulation through the KBRC consisting of 16 individual records. All cases were finalized from these two rounds.

Accepted records:

Podiceps grisegena. RED-NECKED GREBE. [#95-16] December 16, 1995, mouth of Craig's Creek, on the Ohio River, Gallatin County (LM, FL, KF, TS).

Anhinga anhinga. ANHINGA. [95-9] September 1-23, 1995, near Cloverport, Breckinridge County (EB, AB). [First documented Kentucky record since 1964].

Egretta tricolor. TRICOLORED HERON. [95-15] June 17, 1995, Chaney Lake Warren County (MB, GF).

Cygnus columbianus. TUNDRA SWAN. [#96-1] January 16, 1996, Minor E. Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County (LK, FB, WM).

Chen rossii. ROSS GOOSE. [#96-5] March 10, 1996, German's Front Pond, Mercer County (VE, NE, JK) [photographed].

Anas cyanoptera. CINNAMON TEAL. [#95-8] March 30-31, 1995, Westvaco Wildlife Management Area, Carlisle County (MT) [photographed].

Charadrius melodus. PIPING PLOVER. [#96-7] Three separate records: April 30, 1995, two birds at the Falls of the Ohio, Jefferson County (BPB), May 3, 1996, Chaney Lake, Warren County (BPB), [photographed], and May 6, 1996, Kentucky Dam, Marshall County (BPB, MM, DP, RH).

Calidris ferruginea. CURLEW SANDPIPER. [#96-2] September 20, 1995, Falls of the Ohio, Jefferson County (MM, BPB) [photographed, second Kentucky record].

Larus ridibundus. BLACK-HEADED GULL. [#96-3] November 15-23, 1995, Falls of the Ohio, Jefferson County (BPB, many other observers) [photographed, first Kentucky record].

Larus thayeri. THAYER'S GULL. [#95-18] December 16, 1995, Markland Dam, Gallatin County (BPB, several other observers) [photographed].

Rissa tridactyla. BLACK-LEGGED KITTIWAKE. [#95-17] December 16, 1995, Markland Dam, Gallatin County (BPB, several other observers).

Aegolius acadicus. NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL. [#95-14] October 23, 1995, Hart County (SK).

Sitta canadensis. RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH [#96-6] June 1-July 4, 1996, Swift's Creek Trail, Wolfe County (FR) [photographed, first documented breeding record for Kentucky].

Seiurus aurocapillus. OVENBIRD. [#96-4] Mid-November, 1995-February 23, 1996, Covington, Kenton County (SC, BC) [photographed].

Observers: Michael Bierly (MB), Ann Bowne (AB), Edward Bowne (EB), Fred Busroe (FB), Bob Carran (BC), Sherry Carran (SC), Neil Eklund (NE), Virginia Eklund (VE), Kevin Flowers (KF), Gilbert Foster (GF), Richard Healy (RH), J.W. Kemper (JK), Steve Kistler (SK), Lewis Kornman (LK), Frank Lewandowski (FL), Wes Mattox (WM), Lee McNeely (LM), Mark Monroe (MM), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB), Donald Parker (DP), Frank Renfrow (FR), Tommy Stephens (TS), and Maurica Toon (MT).

The current official Kentucky list stands at 351 species (13 of which are by sight only), with the Band-headed Gull added since the last report. All records of birds on the mandatory review list should be sent to the Secretary of the KBRC, Lee McNeely, P.O. Box 463, Burlington, KY 41005.

FIELD NOTES

A Great Blue Heron Rookery in Whitley County

On May 17, 1996, while birding Laurel Lake, I discovered a Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) rookery on a ridge top in Whitley County. I recorded the location but did not visit the site for fear of disturbing the birds. When I returned on November 25, 1996, I found nine nests; three in one tree, two in another, and four singles. The nests are simple stick structures, somewhat awkwardly constructed in the tallest pines (*Pinus spp.*) available. The adjacent hardwoods are not occupied. There is little ground litter or tree whitewash, which leads me to believe the rookery was initially established during the

Spring of 1996.

Until recently the Great Blue Heron was unknown as a breeder in eastern Kentucky (Lynn 1993, *Ky Afield* 49.2: 18-19; Monroe 1994, *The Birds of Kentucky*) That status changed in 1992 when a rookery was discovered on Lake Cumberland in Pulaski County (Hodges 1992, *Ky. Warbler* 68:51). Two more rookeries were established on Laurel Lake, in Laurel County, at about the same time. (P. Martin, pers. comm.), but none have been reported from Whitley County prior to this discovery (KDFWR pers. comm.). The origin of these new colonies is unknown, but they may represent a northern expansion of Tennessee breeding populations. Great Blues nest along the Cumberland River and near Dale Hollow Lake in Tennessee (B. Anderson, pers. comm.), less than 100 miles to the southwest. The Kentucky rookeries are within the Cumberland River watershed and it is possible that the birds followed the riverine corridor north into the state.

The impoundments of eastern Kentucky provide suitable habitat for, and few competitors to, Great Blues. The birds appear to be exploiting the situation on Laurel Lake, having established three colonies there during the last five years. The Cumberland River, its tributaries, and the Kentucky portion of Dale Hollow Lake in particular, should be surveyed for additional nesting locations. If the present trend continues, the documented breeding range of the species might soon extend across the entire Commonwealth.

--CLAY BLACK, 7377 Tarrytown Drive, Springhill, FL 34606.

Purple Martin Migration

I was in Owensboro on August 20 to attend a viewing at the Glenn Funeral Home, 900 Old Hartford Road. At approximately 6:00 p.m. I went outside to get some fresh air. I was amazed that the sky was filled with thousands of birds, many of which were flying directly overhead. I went to my car for my binoculars and scope and scanned the nearby trees. I was stunned, almost every bird I saw was a Purple Martin. The martins were perched in many trees and thousands more were still flying in. I noticed that other birds included in the flying flock were nighthawks, tree swallows, and miscellaneous other birds. However, 95% of the flock was Purple Martin. I conservatively estimate the number of Purple Martins at 25,000. I would not be surprised if the true number approached 50,000 birds. It was truly an impressive sight to have the skies darkened with thousands of Purple Martins. I watched the birds for approximately 20 minutes before going inside. At approximately 7:30 p.m. I went outside and noticed that all the birds had disappeared. They were no longer in the trees where they were an hour earlier.

--DON GORNEY, 631 Fox Orchard Run, Fort Wayne, IN, 46825.

Great Egrets in Madison County

On four occasions (12 July, 19 July, 2 August, and 13 August 1996), we observed Great Egrets (*Casmerodius albus*) while conducting wildlife investigations southeast of Richmond, Madison County, Kentucky. Three egrets were first seen (12 July) along a causeway which crosses Lake Vega, an impoundment located on the Blue Grass Army Depot, at a distance of about 30 m. Our presence caused them to fly to a shallow portion of the impoundment located about 200 m to the west. Adjusting our location, we were able to observe the birds and confirm their identity using a Tasco 18-36x50mm spotting scope.

Three egrets, presumably the same individuals, were observed (19 July) near the same location at the west end of Lake Vega. This observation was from approximately 150 m using a Bausch and Lomb 15-60x60 mm spotting scope.

Christopher Kirk (2 August) was able to view five individuals along the west side of the pier on Lake Reba, a small public access lake, located southeast of Richmond, Madison County, Kentucky. At one point, one of the egrets was no more than 10 m from his location.

Two individuals were observed along the west edge of Lake Vega (13 August). The egrets were observed for about 30 min with a Bausch and Lomb 15-60x60 mm spotting scope. During this time they were primarily hunting and preening. One of the birds appeared as though it could not straighten its neck fully. However, this did not seem to impede its ability to hunt or swallow its prey.

The Great Egret is considered endangered in Kentucky (Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission 1992). Monroe *et al.* (1988, *Annotated Checklist of the birds of Kentucky*) considered the Great Egret an uncommon transient, non-breeding summer visitant, and extremely rare summer resident. Great Egrets are most often associated with the large river flood plains of the western portion of Kentucky (Palmer-Ball 1996, *The Kentucky Breeding Bird Atlas*). In Kentucky, young have been observed in nests from mid-May to mid-August (Palmer-Ball 1996, *The Kentucky Breeding Bird Atlas*). However, we found no evidence of breeding on the depot grounds.

—THOMAS E. OLIVER AND CHRISTOPHER T. KIRK, Biology Department, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, KY 40475.

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 K.O.S. 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.

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. (Lee McNeely, P.O. Box 463, Burlington, KY 41005).

Spring K.O.S. Meeting

The spring meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society will meet April 25, 26 and 27 at Barren River State Resort Park. Please make plans to attend and make your reservations early. We will have a picnic at Brigadoon on Saturday following field trips, weather permitting. If you plan on presenting information at the Friday evening meeting, please contact Wendell Kingsolver, Shepherd Hill, Carlisle, KY.

New K.O.S. Life Members

Dr. Wayne H. Davis, Lexington; Mrs. and Mrs. Robert W. Head, Murray; Wesley Kemper, Cadiz; and Richard K. Kessler, Bardstown are new life members of the Kentucky Ornithological Society.