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The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by the Kentucky Ornithological Society)

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

Organ of the Kentucky Ornithological Society, published quarterly in February, May, August and November. *The KENTUCKY WARBLER* is sent to all members not in arrears for dues. Membership dues are: Active or Regular \$8.00; Contributing, \$15.00; Student \$4.00; Life, \$100.00; Family, \$2.00 in addition to Regular, Contributing or Life Membership dues; Corporate. All articles and communications should be addressed to the editor. Subscriptions, memberships and request for back issues should be sent to the Treasurer.

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THE COVER

The K.O.S. thanks its staff artist, Ray Harm, for this excellent painting of a Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*)

THE SUMMER SEASON, 1997

Fred M Busroe

The months of June and July had near normal temperatures. Precipitation rapidly declined during the period. Heavy rain during the spring allowed some wetlands to retain water longer than usual and some interesting breeding results were recorded. Two half-grown Pied-billed Grebes were seen at Chaney Lake in Warren County and three at Morgan's Pond Christian County along with young Blue-winged Teal. Visits to Big Black Mountain in Harlan County produced several interesting thrush and warbler observations. Five Bell's Vireos were observed at Peabody Wildlife Management Area in June.

Abbreviations: AJJ = A.J. Jolly Park, Campbell County; Bar = Barren County; BBMt = Big Black Mountain, Harlan County; BCNP = Boone County Cliffs Nature Preserve; BWP = Boone Woods Park, Boone County; Cal = Calloway County; Camp = Campbell County; Cane = Canewood, Clark County; Cha = Chaney Lake, Warren County; Chri = Christian County; Cro = Crockett Pond, Logan County; EBP = East Bend Power Plant, Boone County; Fre = Frederick's Landing, Campbell County; FtT = Fort Thomas, Campbell County; Ful = Fulton County; GCA = Greater Cincinnati Airport, Boone County; Gun = Gunpowder Creek, Boone County; Hart = Hart County; Hic = Hickman Bottoms, Fulton County; Hop = Hopkins County; Ken = Kenton County; LBL = Land Between the Lakes; MCNP = Mammoth Cave National Park, Edmonson County; Mad = Madisonville, Hopkins County; MCFH = Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County; Mel = Meldahl Dam, Bracken County; Mid = Middle Creek Park, Boone County; Mor = Morgan's Pond Christian County; PWMA = Peabody Wildlife Management Area, Ohio County; Pet = Petersburg, Boone County; RBA = Raymond B. Athey Nature Preserve, Logan County; Red = Red River Gorge, Powell and Wolfe counties; Row = Rowan County; Sil = Silver Grove, Campbell County; Slo = Sloughs WMA, Henderson County; Sny = Snyder Airport, Pendleton County; Sug = Sugartree-Hollow, Pulaski County; Swa = Swallow Springs, Christian County; Wol = Wolper's Creek, Boone County; Zoo = Louisville Zoo, Jefferson County.

- Pied-billed Grebe** - Two young on July 13 at Cha and 3 young on July 31 at Mor, these appear to be breeding records for the area (DR).
- Great Blue Heron** - One on July 11 and 12 in Hart (MS); 11 on July 27 and 40 on July 30 at Mor (MB); 3 on July 9 near Mad (JWH).
- Great Egret** - One on July 2 at Cha (DR); 2 at Mor on July 11 (MB); one on July 12 at Pet (LMc); one on July 13 and 30 at Mor (MB).
- Snowy Egret** - One on June 5 at Island #8, Slo (MB).
- Little Blue Heron** - One on July 10 at Cha (DR).
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** - One immature on July 10 at Cha (DR).
- Black-crowned Night-Heron** - One adult and 3 young in nest with one adult and one immature in trees at Zoo on July 18 (MS).

- Wood Duck** - 12 on July 27 at Mor (MB).
- Mallard** - One female with 5 young on July 6 at Swa (MB).
- Blue-winged Teal** - One female and 8 young on July 6 at Mor, 2 females with 14 young on July 6 at Swa and approximately 100 on July 27 at Mor (MB); 22 young birds at Cha on July 13 (DR).
- Northern Shoveler** - One male and 7 juveniles on June 6 at Mor (MB); 2 (male and female) on June 6 at MCFH (FB).
- Canvasback** - A male spent the season at MCFH (FB).
- Ring-necked Duck** - Two on July 27 at Mor (MB).
- Common Merganser** - One on June 6 at LBL (MB).
- Black Vulture** - Small numbers were noted during the period at EBP, Mid, and Pet (LMc); 3 on July 29 at Mel (FR).
- Turkey Vulture** - 20 on July 29 at Mel (FR).
- Mississippi Kite** - Two at Hic on June 6 (MB).
- Bald Eagle** - An immature and a young adult spent the season at MCFH (FB).
- Sharp-shinned Hawk** - One on June 19 and 21 in Hart (MS).
- Cooper's Hawk** - One on July 24 in Bar (MS).
- Red-shouldered Hawk** - One on June 2 in Hop (JWH); one on July 7 at MCNP (MS).
- Red-tailed Hawk** - One adult and one young at nest on June 2 near FtT (FR).
- Broad-winged Hawk** - Single observations at Wol June 2 and at EBP on June 5 (LMc); one on July 3 at RBA (MB).
- American Kestrel** - Four on July 29 at Fre (FR).
- Wild Turkey** - Two adults and 7 young on July 5 at BBMt (FR).
- Northern Bobwhite** - 25 recorded on seven June trips in Hop (JWH).
- American Coot** - 14 on June 11 in Chri (DR); one on July 5 in Trigg County (DR.; one on July 12 at Pet - thought to have summered here (LMc); 4 on July 14 at Cha (DR).
- American Golden Plover** - One on July 28 and 2 on July 31 in Chri (DR).
- Semipalmated Plover** - One on June 4 at Cha and 7 on June 11 in Chri (DR).
- Killdeer** - Approximately 200 on July 27 at Mor (MB).
- American Avocet** - One on July 27 at Mor (MB).
- Lesser Yellowlegs** - 23 on July 27 at Mor (MB).
- Solitary Sandpiper** - Six on July 10 at Cha (DR); one on July 20 at Mor (MS).
- Spotted Sandpiper** - Two on July 27 and 30 at Mor (MB).
- Semipalmated Sandpiper** - Seven on June 4 at Cha (DR); 65 on June 11 in Chri (DR); 5 on June 17 at Cro, 2 on July 30 at Mor (MB).
- Least Sandpiper** - Three on July 11, 12 on July 17, and 10 on July 30 at Mor with 6 at Swa (MB).
- White-rumped Sandpiper** - One on June 1 at Cro (MB); 2 on June 4, and 5 on June 11 at Cha, with 25 on June 11 in Chri (DR).
- Pectoral Sanpiper** - Four on July 10 at Cha (DR); 23 on July 27, and approximately 50 on July 30 at Mor (MB).

- Dunlin** - Two on June 1 at Cha (DR).
- Stilt Sandpiper** - One on July 27 at Mor (MB).
- Short-billed Dowitcher** - One on July 27 at Mor (MB).
- American Woodcock** - Two on July 14 at Sil (FR)
- Common Tern** - Seven on June 1 on Ohio River, Dayton, Camp (FR).
- Black Tern** - Three on June 11 in Chri (DR).
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo** - 13 recorded on seven trips during June in Hop (JWH).
- Great Horned Owl** - One immature on June 2 at Mid (LMc).
- Barred Owl** - Two, one had a snake in its talons, on June 24 at Sug (MB).
- Chuck-will's-widow** - One and two calling from June 1 to July 6 in Hart (MS).
- Whip-poor-will** - Three on July 10 at AJJ (FR).
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird** - Active nest at Mid on June 6, nest with two eggs on June 7 at Bur (LMc).
- Acadian Flycatcher** - 11 on June 2 at Mid (LMc); 5 on July 7 at MCNP and 2 in Metcalfe County on July 14 (MS).
- Eastern Wood-Pewee** - A total of 27 were observed on nine June trips in Hop (JWH).
- Willow Flycatcher** - Small numbers were present in Pet during the period (LMc); 3 in song on June 6 at MCFH (FB); 2 on June 9 in rural Pendleton County (FR); 4 and a nest with 2 eggs on June 20 at Pea (MB, BPB, DR).
- Horned Lark** - One on June 2 near Bellview, Boone County (LMc); 3 on levee on June 5 at Kentucky Bend, Ful (MB).
- Tree Swallow** - Seven on June 9 in Hop (JWH); at least three pairs nested at MCFH in June (FB).
- Bank Swallow** - Active during the period at Pet (LMc).
- Cliff Swallow** - Present on June 2 at Gun (LMc); 20 on June 14 at Mel (FR); 10 to 12 on July 14 at nests near Sulphur Wells Bridge in Metcalfe County (MS).
- Red-breasted Nuthatch** - Four on July 12 at Swift's Creek, Red, but no sign of nesting activity this year (FR).
- Carolina Wren** - 49 seen on nine June trips in Hop (JWH); 2 adults with 2 young on July 29 in Hart (MS).
- Bewick's Wren** - One vocal on July 3 at RBA (MB).
- Veery** - Six on July 4 and a total of 12 on July 5 at BBMt (FR).
- Wood Thrush** - 13 on June 2 at Mid and young out of nest at BCC on June 24 (LMc); only 4 recorded on four June trips in Hop (JWH); 6 on July 7 at MCNP (MS).
- Cedar Waxwing** - Pair building a nest on July 4 at Mid (LMc); as many as 17 during the period in Hart (MS)
- White-eyed Vireo** - Several were present during the period at Pet and Mid (LMc); 12 observed on five June trips in Hop (JWH).
- Bell's Vireo** - Five vocally on June 20 at Pea (MB, BPB, DR).
- Warbling Vireo** - Two on June 14 at Mel (FR); 4 recorded on four June trips in Hop (JWH).

- Solitary Vireo** - Three on June 24 at Sug (MB); one adult feeding young on July 5 at BBMt and two on July 12 in RRG (FR).
- Yellow-throated Vireo** - Only 3 recorded on two June trips in Hop (JWH).
- Red-eyed Vireo** - 17 on June 2 at Mid, good numbers at BCC during June and July (LMc).
- Blue-winged Warbler** - Two on June 9 in rural Camp, one on June 21 in Lewis County (FR).
- Northern Parula** - Three observed on two June trips in Hop (JWH); one on July 10 in Boone County (FR).
- Chestnut-sided Warbler** - Eight on July 4 and a total of 25 on July 5 at BBMt (FR).
- Black-throated Blue Warbler** - One on July 4 with 4 present on July 5 at BBMt (FR).
- Black-throated Green Warbler** - One on July 5 at BBMt and 8 on July 12 at Red (FR).
- Yellow-throated Warbler** - Two on July 5 at BBMt and 8 on July 12 at Red (FR).
- Cerulean Warbler** - Seven on June 2 at Mid (LMc); one on June 5 at Kentucky Bend, Ful (MB); one on July 5 at BBMt (FR).
- American Redstart** - Four on July 5 at BBMt (FR).
- Worm-eating Warbler** - One June 5 at Kentucky Bend, Ful (MB); adults were feeding fledglings on June 24 at Mid (LMc); 3 on July 7 at MCNP (MS).
- Ovenbird** - Five on June 2 at Mid and good numbers at BCC (LMc).
- Prothonotary Warbler** - 10 recorded in June in western Hop (JWH).
- Swainson's Warbler** - One, maybe two, singing on June 4 in Cal (MB); one on July 12 at Red (FR).
- Louisiana Waterthrush** - One on June 2 and on July 4 in Hop (JWH); one on July 5 at BBMt (FR).
- Kentucky Warbler** - Only 6 recorded on six June trips in Hop, timbering has altered habitat in a prime area (JWH); one on June 21 in Lewis County and 2 adults feeding a Brown-headed Cowbird on July 10 in Boone County (FR).
- Hooded Warbler** - Four on June 2 at Mid and present in good numbers at BCC (LMc); 2 on July 5 at BBMt (FR).
- Blue Grosbeak** - One male on June 3 at Grant's Lick, Camp, one on June 9 at Sny, 2 males on June 14 by AA Highway, Camp, and one on June 21 in Bracken County (FR); 6 recorded on four June trips in Hop (JWH).
- Rose-breasted Grosbeak** - A singing male in Row on June 2 (FR); a total of 4 on July 5 on BBMt (FR); a male was present in July 6 at Mid (LMc).
- Dickcissel** - Three on June 2 in Bar, 2 on June 6 and 8 present on July 7, with singles seen in Hart from June 6 to July 31 (MS); 17 recorded on three June trips in Hop (JWH); one heard singing on July 4 near Pet (LMc).

- Grasshopper Sparrow** - One to two from June 6 to July 31 in Hart (MS); 4 on June 9 at Sny (FR); single observations were noted at GCA and Pet on July 4 (LMc).
- Henslow's Sparrow** - At least 8 were singing on July 1 in Butler County (DR); 3 on July 20 at Pea (MB, BPB, DR).
- Dark-eyed Junco** - A total of 10, with an adult feeding a fledgling on July 4, while 8 were seen on July 5 at BBMt (FR).
- Bobolink** - Two on July 6 at Cane (FR).
- Orchard Oriole** - Fairly common in northern Kentucky during the period (FR); 6 on four June trips in Hop (JWH).
- Baltimore Oriole** - One male and 1 female on June 23 in Hart (MS); active nest on July 4 at BWP (LMc); fairly common in Campbell and Kenton counties (FR).

Contributors - Mark Bennett (MB), Fred Busroe (FB), James W. Hancock (JWH), Lee McNeely (LMc), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr (BPB), Frank Renfrow (FR), David Roemer (DR), Mitchell Sturgeon (MS).

Observations under current review by the Kentucky Bird Records Committee:

White-faced Ibis - observed 6 September 1996 in Ohio County.

Ross' Goose - observed 7 March 1997 at Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County.

Tufted Duck - observed from 9 April to 15 April 1997 at McElroy Lake, Warren County.

Ruff - observed from 17 April to 19 April 1997 in Henderson County.

Cinnamon Teal - observed from 19 April to 22 April 1997 at McElroy Lake, Warren County.

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

**THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
FALL MEETING, 1997**

The Fall meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society was held at Pine Mountain State Resort Park 3, 4, and 5 October. The Friday evening meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. by President Wayne Mason who welcomed the membership and recognized new members. Wayne turned the program over to Vice President Wendell Kingsolver who introduced the program participants. Andy Uterhart talked about a bird banding expedition at Point Reyes, Wayne Davis discussed his blue-bird nest box research, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr presented slides for Rosanna Denton documenting wading bird occurrences at Lake Cumberland, Wendell Thompson described their trip to see the Himalayan Snow Cock at Ruby Mountain, Nevada, Brainard showed excellent slides of the Swallow-tailed Kite observed over Boone County, Kentucky, and Wendell Kingsolver concluded the presentations with slides of various hawks to get the membership in the spirit for visiting the Pinnacle at

Cumberland Gap in the morning. Field trips for Saturday were organized and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. Many members joined the social gathering hosted by the Kingsolvers in their lodge room following the meeting.

The Board meeting was held at 3:00 p.m.

Wayne Mason began the Saturday evening program by announcing the following slate of officers: Wendell Kingsolver for President, Marilee Thompson for Vice President, Lee McNeely for Treasurer, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. for Corresponding Secretary, Mark Bennett for Recording Secretary, and David Roemer and Kathryn Clay for Councillors. The slate of officers was unanimously approved by the membership. Next, Wayne introduced the guest speaker, Laura Burford, a wildlife biologist with the Non-game Division of the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Service. She gave an excellent presentation of the Fish and Wildlife Service's efforts to reintroduce Peregrine Falcons in Kentucky and concluded her talk by showing a live Peregrine Falcon. Wayne Mason compiled the list of species observed during the Saturday morning field trips following Laura's presentation. A field trip to the Pinnacle, led by Wendell and Ginny Kingsolver, was organized for Sunday morning. The meeting was adjourned.

ATTENDANCE AT THE FALL MEETING

BOWLING GREEN: Lester Doyle, Blaine Ferrell, Elizabeth Ferrell, Priscilla Ferrell, Wayne Mason, David Roemer, and Joan Roemer

BRONSTON: Margaret York

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

CANEYVILLE: Mary Harre

CARLISLE: Ginny Kingsolver and Wendell Kingsolver

DANVILLE: JoAnn Hamm and Mike Hamm

FALLS OF ROUGH: Doralee St.Clair, Kathryn Clay, and Joyce Porter

FRANKFORT: Estin Kimbel

GILBERTSVILLE: Rowena Cary

LEXINGTON: Shirley Davis, Wayne Davis, Andy Uterhart, Gerry Williams, and Jim Williams

LOUISVILLE: Jane Bell, Pat Bell, Bob Brown, Richard Cassell, Judi Jones, Darrin O'Brien, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Esther Tamplin, and Phil Tamplin

MOREHEAD: Fred Busroe and Brian Reeder

MORGANTOWN: Carroll Tichenor and Doris Tichenor

MUNFORDVILLE: Logan Kistler and Steve Kistler

OWENSBORO: Marilee Thompson, Wendell Thompson, and Bill Tyler

PADUCAH: Bernice Cadell

PROSPECT: Fred T. Mansmith

RUSSELLVILLE: Andrea Bennett and Mark Bennett

SCIENCE HILL: Roseanne Denton

SOMERSET: Linda McClendon

UNION: Karen Stephens and Tom Stephens

BIRDS OBSERVED AT THE FALL MEETING 1997

Birds observed at the Fall Meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society at Pine Mountain State Resort Park October 5 were as follows: Great Blue Heron, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Wild Turkey, Killdeer, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Blue Jay, American Crow, Common Raven, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Winter Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Cedar Waxwing, European Starling, Solitary Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orange-crowned Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, American Redstart, Hooded Warbler, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, and American Goldfinch for a total of 74 species. Species observed during Sunday field trips were Ruffed Grouse, Barred Owl, Indigo Bunting, Common Grackle, and House Sparrow which brought the weekend total to 79 species.

**KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
TREASURER'S REPORT**

September 6, 1996 - September 29, 1997

	Beginning Balance	\$ 2,735.64
 <u>Receipts</u>		
Membership Dues	\$ 3,410.00	
Life Memberships	600.00	
Gordon Wilson Fund	33.00	
Sale of Annotated Checklists	72.48	
Sale of Warbler back issues	6.00	
Sale of Field Checklists	104.61	
Fall Meeting Registration	126.00	
Spring Meeting Registration	106.00	
	\$ 4,458.09	\$ 4,458.09
		\$ 7,193.73
 <u>Disbursements</u>		
United Graphics (5 Warblers)	\$ 4,907.66	
United Graphics (Checklists)	313.60	
United Graphics (Envelopes)	184.00	
Postage	285.00	
Bell South	214.13	
Ky. State Treasurer (Sales tax)	33.52	
Great Impressions (Bank stamp)	13.50	
Kay Mudd (Misc. Reimbursement)	178.60	
Pat Bell (Phone tapes)	8.47	
Anne Stamm (Reimbursement)	10.38	
Michael Hamm (Life member refund)	100.00	
	\$ 6,248.86	\$ 6,248.86
	Ending Balance	
	September 29, 1997	\$944.87

**KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
September 29, 1997**

National City Bank	Checking	\$ 944.87
National City Bank	Burt Monroe Fund	1,806.75
Republic Bank	Gordon Wilson Fund	3,847.80 CD matures 5/28/98
Great Financial Bank	Gordon Wilson Fund	6,317.49
Great Financial Bank	Endowment	3,124.98 CD matures 11/2/99
Heritage Bank	Endowment	3,200.20 CD matures 12/19/97
Heritage Bank	Endowment	4,982.13 CD matures 12/19/97
		\$ 24,224.22

THE WOODBURN LAKES -- 1997 SEASON

David Roemer, Jackie and Diane Elmore, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., Mark Bennett, Gilbert Foster, and Lester Doyle

The 1997 season was the best ever documented for the transient lakes near Woodburn, in Warren County, based on the number of waterbird species observed (78), eclipsing the 1989 total of 70 species (Palmer-Ball and Boggs, *Ky Warbler* 67:33-45,60-66, 1991). While the season was considerably shorter than in 1989, the lakes received much greater attention from birders in 1997, which is likely the main reason the number of species was so high. Reported herein is a summary of water conditions and waterbird observations made during the winter 1996-97 and spring-early summer 1997 by the authors. There were doubtless a few observations of record made by other individuals, but we have compiled those made by ourselves, which, as far as we are aware, account for all significant records made during the period.

The 1997 season actually began late in 1996. Rainfall during the first week of December was adequate to begin filling the lakes. Ducks began to accumulate by the third week of December, but numbers varied greatly due to hunting. On 14 January McElroy Lake was frozen except for the south end and the ditch area, and at least 1000 waterfowl were present. By the week of 19 January, approximately 2000 individuals of 15 species were present. The waters began to recede in February, but an early March deluge of 7+ inches of rain caused a rise in the lakes to relatively high levels. Waterfowl diversity peaked in mid- to late March, with 21 species observed at the lakes on 22 March, and a few early migrant shorebirds

appeared during the last week of the month. Substantial precipitation continued through early April, which resulted in slowly rising levels that peaked about 1-2 feet below the highest levels ever recorded in 1950 (Wilson, *Ky Warbler* 27:1-6, 1951). During early April McElroy Lake probably covered about 350-400 acres, while Chaney Lake was more than 200 acres in size.

As is typically the case at the transient lakes, a good variety of swallows was present throughout spring migration. Highest numbers were observed during April, and an impressive count of approximately 3,000 Tree Swallows on 13 April likely was the most noteworthy count made during the season. Precipitation dropped off dramatically during April, and only a few substantial rain events in mid-May helped slow the receding lake levels. Shorebird numbers were slow to build, but large numbers arrived during late April. The season's peak count of 16 species of shorebirds was tallied at the lakes on 29 April. McElroy Lake dropped quickly through mid-May, but the improving shorebird habitat resulted in larger numbers, and shorebirds peaked at nearly 2000 individuals (of 15 species) on 20 May. McElroy Lake dried up by the end of May, while Chaney Lake lasted into the middle of July. Dropping water levels occurred earlier in the season than in 1989, so fewer birds (especially waterfowl)

lingered and nested. However, Pied-billed Grebes, Blue-winged Teal, and Hooded Mergansers were confirmed breeding at Chaney Lake, along with Canada Geese, Wood Ducks, and Mallards.

There were many noteworthy observations made during the 1997 season. The Tufted Duck was a first state record, and the Cinnamon Teal a seventh (and second for south-central Kentucky). The number of Eared Grebes observed (at least six individuals) and the duration of observations (nearly two months) was remarkable. Ross' Geese and Greater White-fronted Geese now seem to be annual in occurrence in south-central Kentucky; both species were reported two separate times at the lakes during the season. Northern Shovelers have increased in occurrence in Kentucky in winter over the past twenty years, and at least a few were present throughout the 1996-97 winter season at McElroy Lake. The spring shorebird flight did not turn up any especially rare species, the most unusual being American Avocet and Willet. However, the season was unique in terms of the numbers of shorebirds seen. In fact, the largest numbers of several species ever reported for the state in spring were observed, including Semipalmated Plover (250+), Ruddy Turnstone (20), White-rumped Sandpiper (100+), Baird's Sandpiper (5), Western Sandpiper (17), Dunlin (150+), Stilt Sandpiper (55) and Wilson's Phalarope (18). In addition, the peak counts for Semipalmated Plover, Ruddy Turnstone, Dunlin, and Wilson's Phalarope represented the highest counts ever reported from the state at any season.

Following in tabular form is a summary of the waterbirds reported by the authors during the 1997 season. Birds included herein were observed primarily at the two largest transient lakes, McElroy (MC) and Chaney (CH) lakes. In fact, most were compiled at McElroy Lake, and unless otherwise noted, dates and

peak numbers pertain to that location. Other bodies of water included in this summary include "Walton's Pond" (WP) along Highway 242 west of Woodburn and numerous small ponds along Meng Road (MR), southeast of McElroy Lake.

Species	Early date	Late date	Peak date	Peak count	Comments
Common Loon	3-25	5-08	4-19	14	
Pied-billed Grebe	1-20	7-13 CH	4-25	15 CH	bred at CH
Horned Grebe	2-14	5-07	3-15	25+	
Eared Grebe	3-18	5-08	4-08	5	
Dbl-cr. Cormorant	3-29	5-03	4-22	35	
American Bittern	5-03 CH	5-03	5-03	1	
Great Blue Heron	3-28 WP	7-14 CH	5-24	7	
Little Blue Heron	7-10 CH	7-10	7-10	1	adult
Great Egret	3-28 WP	7-10 CH	4-25	3 WP	
Cattle Egret	5-17	5-17	5-17	5	
Green Heron	4-23 CH	7-14 CH	7-14	10 CH	
Bl.-cr. Night-Heron	4-06 MR	5-07	5-07	2	
Yel.-cr. Night-Heron	7-10 CH	7-11 CH	same	1	immature
Tundra Swan	3-17	3-17	3-17	1	adult
Gr. White-frtd Goose	1-02	3-09	1-02	5	
Snow Goose	1-02	4-16	1-24	40	
Ross' Goose	2-03	3-24	2-03/08	4 MC/WP	
Canada Goose	1-08	6-05 CH	2-08	225+	bred at CH
Wood Duck	2-08	7-14 CH	3-15	6+ CH	bred at CH
Green-winged Teal	12-21	5-08	3-15	30	
Amer. Black Duck	1-02	3-22	2-08	10+	
Mallard	12-21	7-14 CH	1-20	2000	bred MC/CH
Northern Pintail	1-02	3-22	2-08	20+	
Blue-winged Teal	2-14	7-14 CH	4-10	400	bred at CH
Cinnamon Teal	4-19	4-22	same	1	male
Northern Shoveler	1-05	6-05	3-15/29	100 CH	
Gadwall	1-02	5-20	3-09	25	
American Wigeon	12-21	5-07	4-15	50	
Canvasback	1-18	3-29	3-22	10	
Redhead	12-21	4-20	3-15	110 WP	
Tufted Duck	4-05 MR	4-15	same	1 male	
Ring-necked Duck	1-03	7-14 CH	3-09	150 WP	
Greater Scaup	1-24	3-22	3-22	6-8+	
Lesser Scaup	1-03	7-14 CH	3-09	200	
Common Goldeneye	12-25	4-25 CH	12-25	9	
Bufflehead	1-20	5-07	3-22	25+	
Hooded Merganser	2-22	7-10 CH	4-10	16 CH	bred at CH
Common Merganser	2-08	2-08	2-08	1	male

Species	Early date	Late date	Peak date	Peak count	Comments
R.-br. Merganser	3-22	4-25	4-20	75	
Ruddy Duck	2-07	5-27	4-16	130	
Virginia Rail	4-27 CH	4-27	4-27	1	
Sora	4-13	5-03	4-27	6 CH	
Common Moorhen	4-10 CH	5-20 CH	5-20	2 CH	
American Coot	2-08	7-14 CH	4-10/20	5-10,000	
Sandhill Crane	12-05	4-02	2-14	40+	
Black-bellied Plover	4-22	5-26	5-14	31	
Amer. Golden-Plover	3-31	5-20	4-19	8 CH	
Semipalmated Plover	4-14	6-04 CH	5-20	250+	
Killdeer	1-20	6-05 CH	5-20	50+	
American Avocet	4-13	4-13	4-13	1	
Greater Yellowlegs	3-01	5-24	4-03	8	
Lesser Yellowlegs	3-15	5-23	4-25	150 CH	
Solitary Sandpiper	3-25	5-07*	4-26	15 CH	
Willet	4-26	4-26	4-26	1	
Spotted Sandpiper	4-14	6-04 CH	5-20	25+	
Upland Sandpiper	4-14 CH	4-22	4-14/22	1	
Ruddy Turnstone	5-17	5-26	5-17	20	
Sanderling	5-20	5-21	5-20/21	1	
Semipalm. Sandpiper	4-29	6-05	5-23	1500+	
Western Sandpiper	4-24	5-01	4-27	17	
Least Sandpiper	3-25	5-26*	5-07	75+	
Wh.-rmpd Sandpiper	4-27	6-11 CH	5-20	100+	
Baird's Sandpiper	4-30	5-05	5-01	5	
Pectoral Sandpiper	3-22	5-27*	4-26/5-07	150MC/CH	
Dunlin	4-06	6-01	5-14	150+	
Stilt Sandpiper	4-30	5-26	5-20	55	
Sh.-billed Dowitcher	4-09 CH	5-21	5-14	50	
Lg.-billed Dowitcher	4-09 CH	5-05	5-01	12	
Common Snipe	1-11	4-26	1-11	23	
Wilson's Phalarope	4-26	5-23	5-04	18	
Laughing Gull	4-11	4-11	4-11	1	adult
Franklin's Gull	5-01	5-01	5-01	3	adults
Bonaparte's Gull	4-03	5-01	4-03	28	
Ring-billed Gull	12-05	5-05	1-20	150±	
Herring Gull	4-30	5-20	5-20	2	
Caspian Tern	4-22	4-22	4-22	5	
Forster's Tern	5-23	5-23	5-23	21	
Black Tern	5-07	5-27	5-25	50	

Species	Early date	Late date	Peak date	Peak count	Comments
<u>Others species</u>					
Osprey	4-26	5-24	sev dates	1	MC/CH
Bald Eagle	4-19	4-19	4-19	1	sub-ad
Peregrine Falcon	4-26	5-24	sev dates	1	
American Pipit	12-05	5-08	4-08	200	CH
Lapland Longspur	12-15	3-27	1-24	7	
Brewer's Blackbird	2-22	4-26	3-25	300+	MR area

* = a few early fall migrant shorebirds were observed at Chaney Lake during early July; including Least Sandpipers 10/13/14 July, Solitary Sandpipers on 10 July, and Pectoral Sandpipers on 10 July.

-- 294 Drakes Creek Drive, Bowling Green, 42103 (Roemer), 140 Crockett Drive, Bowling Green, 42101 (Elmores), 8207 Old Westport Road, Louisville, 40222 (Palmer-Ball), 259 West Valley Road, Russellville, 42276 (Bennett), 6600 Hwy 100, Nashville, TN, 37205 (Foster), and 1115 High St., Bowling Green, 42101

FIELD NOTE

Overwintering Chipping Sparrows in Warren County

Chipping Sparrows (*Spizella passerina*) were present throughout the winter of 1996-1997 in Warren county. These birds were observed feeding in my yard and adjacent fields, often in the company of Field Sparrows.

Numbers seen were usually less than a dozen birds. During extremely cold weather however, higher numbers were present with as many as 26 counted on 20 January, 21 on 12 January, 15 on 14 January, 19 on 15 January, and 20 on 13 February.

Chipping Sparrows were absent or seen in lower numbers during mild weather, apparently finding adequate forage in the cow pastures in the area. As many as 20 Chipping Sparrows and several Field Sparrows were seen on 13 February riding broomsedge heads to the ground to feed on the seeds. These birds seem to prefer relatively short vegetation, as in mowed fescue or grazed cow pastures, and were not present in grown up fence rows or weedy fields with the numerous White-throated and White-crowned Sparrows.

Chipping Sparrows were present in the same area throughout the previous winter, although dates and numbers were not recorded. --DAVID T. ROEMER
294 Drakes Creek Dr. Bowling Green 42103.

Kentucky Audubon Council Awards

Several of our K.O.S. members were winners in the first annual Kentucky Audubon Council (KAC) Bird Habitat Conservation competition. There were three award categories: 1) backyard habitat, 2 acres or less, 2) farms and landholdings larger than 2 acres and 3) ecosystem level conservation

Backyard

First Prize: Hack and Carolyn Williamson, Varney
1st Honorable Mention: W. Horace Brown, Shelbyville
2nd Honorable Mention: Nelia and Bob Roush, Elizabethtown
3rd Honorable Mention: Diane and Roger Shott, Anchorage
4th Honorable Mention: Joyce L. Porter, Falls of Rough

Farm

First Prize: Karen and Donna Thompson, Owenton
1st Honorable Mention: Tamara L. Sanderson, Lexington and Highland Cemetery, Ft. Mitchell
2nd Honorable Mention: Mrs. Herbert Clay, Falls of Rough

Ecosystem

First Prize: Wendell and Ginny Kingsolver, Carlisle

The awards were presented on 1 November 1997 at the fall meeting of the Kentucky Audubon Council held at the Louisville Nature Center. KAC plans to make this an annual event. If you didn't win first prize this year, you are invited to enter again next year. -- Joyce L. Porter, P.O. Box 176, Falls of Rough, Kentucky 40119.

K.O.S. Field Trips

16-19 January: Eastern seashore field trip to Virginia, Delaware, Maryland. A pelagic trip can be a part of this trip. Call Jim Williams for details: (606)-269-3915.

24-25 January: The Nature Center in Cincinnati and surrounding area. A good birder will serve as a guide. Contact Marilee Thompson (502)-281-5619 for more information.

8 February: Ohio County Strip Mines for waterfowl, hawks, and owls. Meet at the MiniMart, Exit 75 off Western Kentucky Parkway (Beaver Dam) at 9:00 a.m. EST. Bring lunch and lawn chairs. Leader: Kathryn Clay (502)-879-8345.

K.O.S. Spring Meeting

The K.O.S. Spring meeting is scheduled for 24-26 April at General Butler State Park. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending and participating in the Friday evening program.

In Memoriam: Mabel Slack

K.O.S. member Mabel Slack died at the age of 98, Monday September 15 at Wesminster Terrace. She was a native of Union County and a retired teacher at Atherton High School. Mabel will be missed by the K.O.S. and our sympathies are extended to the family.