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The Kentucky Warbler

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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THE COVER

The K.O.S. thanks our staff artist, Ray Harm, for the excellent print of Northern Mockingbirds, *Mimus polyglottos*.

THE WINTER SEASON

1 December 1997 - 28 February 1998

Fred M. Busroe

The weather was mild during the period. There was a major snow fall, February 4 and 5 that covered much of the state, with Louisville receiving 22+ inches and Lexington getting 17 inches. As a result of the mild conditions the number of waterfowl and other winter visitants was below normal numbers. A few interesting gulls did show up in western Kentucky.

Abbreviations - AJP = A.J. Jolly Park, Campbell County; Bar = Barren County; Bel = Bellevue, Campbell County; Bern = Bernheim Forest, Bullitt and Nelson counties; BBL = Big Bone Lick State Park, Boone County; Btl = Butler County; CEL = Camp Ernst Lake, Boone County; Camp = Campbell County; Can = Caneyville, Grayson County; CCSP = Carter Caves State Park, Carter County; CHC = Cave Hill Cemetery, Jefferson County; CL#1 = City Lake # 1, Madisonville, Hopkins County; CRL = Cave Run Lake, Rowan County; Cra = Craig's Creek, Gallatin County; Day = Dayton, Campbell County; Falls = Falls of the Ohio, Jefferson County; Gen = Geneva, Henderson County; Ghe = Ghent Power Plant, Carroll County; Hard = Hardin County; Hart = Hart County; Heb = Hebron, Boone County; Jon = Jonathan Creek, Marshall County; KL = Kentucky Lake, Marshall County; LBar = Lake Barkley, Lyon County; LPew = Lake Pewee, Hopkins County; Mad = Madisonville, Hopkins County; Mar = Markland Dam, Gallatin County; MCFH = Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County; Mel = Meldahl Dam, Bracken County; Melb = Melbourne, Campbell County; New = Newport, Campbell County; ORB = Ohio River Basin, Jefferson County; Ott = Otter Creek Park, Meade County; Pea = Peabody WMA, Muhlenberg County; Pet = Petersburg, Boone County; Pro = Prospect, Jefferson County; RNWR = Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge, Fulton County; Saw = E.P."Tom" Sawyer State Park, Jefferson County; SWMA = Sauerheber Unit of Sloughs WMA, Henderson County; SC = Short Creek, Grayson County; Smi = Smithland Dam, Livingston County; Ten = Ten Broeck Subdivision, Jefferson County; Tow = Towhead Island, Jefferson County; War = Warsaw, Gallatin County.

RED-THROATED LOON - One immature present at Smi from December 11 through January 1 (DR).

Common Loon - One on December 1 at Mel (FR); one on January 12 at CRL (FB); two on February 1 at CRL and one on February 24 at AJP (FR)

Pied-billed Grebe - 11 on December 13 at Falls (JP); 8 on December 6 and 4 on January 1 at Mel (FR); 14 on January 20 at LPew (JWH).

Horned Grebe - Two on December 13 at Falls (JP); 3 on December 13 at Mel (FR); 2 on December 15 at LPew and one at CL#1 (JWH); 2 on December 22 at New (FR).

EARED GREBE - One present from December 2 to 26 and 2 from December 26 through January 1 at Smi (DR).

American White Pelican - 85 on February 24 at LBar (DR).

Double-crested Cormorant - Five on December 6 and one on January 14 at Mel (FR).

- Great Blue Heron** - One in Hart on December 2, 3, and 8 with one in Bar on December 4 and January 8 (MS); 3 on December 15 at LPew (JWH); 3 on February 22 at Gen (MH, JP).
- Great Egret** - One on February 8 and February 13 at LBar (DR).
- Tundra Swan** - One on January 16 at Green River, Btl (DR).
- Greater White-fronted Goose** - One on December 14 at Jon (DR); 6 on January 3 at CEL (LMc); 37 on January 18 at RNWR (DO).
- Snow Goose** - One white phase on February 16 at Heb (LMc).
- Canada Goose** - 300+ on December 12 in east Hard (JP); 25 on December 30 at Can (JP); 15 at LPew and 22 in Mad on January 28 (JWH); 500 on February 2 at SWMA (MH, JP); 17 in mid-February and 2 building a nest on February 24 at Ten (S).
- Wood Duck** - One male on January 31 at MCFH (FB); one male on February 16 at Pet pond (LMc).
- Green-winged Teal** - One on January 2 at Day (FR); one on February 22 at SWMA (MH, JP).
- American Black Duck** - 30 on January 13 at Mel (FR).
- Mallard** - 6 on January 6 and 5 on February 5 in Bar (MS); 120 on January 11 at Mel (FR); 40 at Dozier Lake and 28 at CL#1 on December 26 (JH); 120 at Edgewood and 170 at Cold Springs, Kenton County on January 21 (FR).
- Northern Pintail** - One on December 21 at Falls (DO); 7 on January 13 at Mel (FR).
- Northern Shoveler** - A few present throughout the period at KL and LBar (DR).
- Gadwall** - Nine at CL#1 and 7 at CL#4 on December 26 (JWH); three from December 27 to January 3 at CEL and 4 on January 3 at Pet (LMc).
- American Wigeon** - 6 at CL#1 and 7 at CL#4 on December 26 (JWH); 13 on January 3 at Pea (DO).
- Canvasback** - 22 on December 15 at LPew (JWH); one male on January 1 at Mel (FR); 500+ on February 8 at LBar (DR).
- Redhead** - Three on December 21 at ORB (DO); two on January 3 at CEL (LMc).
- Ring-necked Duck** - 2 on December 26 at LPew (JWH); approximately 99 on January 3 at Pea (DO).
- Greater Scaup** - 300 on February 24 on LBar (DR).
- Oldsquaw** - One on January 4 at Tow (DO).
- Black Scoter** - 2 on December 11 at Smi (DR).
- Surf Scoter** - One on December 6 and 13 at Mel (FR); one at each of the following sites: Bar on December 1, Smi on December 11 and Falls on December 11 until January 21 (DR).
- Bufflehead** - 4 to 12 during the period at LPew (JWH).
- Common Merganser** - Two on January 10 at Pro, one male on January 25 at Mel and 3 females on February 7 at AJP (FR).

- Red-breasted Merganser** - Two on December 22 at New and 12 on December 28 at Mar (FR).
- Ruddy Duck** - Two from December 2 to January 3 at CEL (LMc); 2 on December 6 at Mel (FR); present at LPew with a high of 27 on January 20 (JWH).
- Black Vulture** - Good numbers wintered at EBP and at Ghe (LMc); one on January 1 in Camp (FR).
- Bald Eagle** - An adult on December 20 at War (LMc); two to three present at MCFH during the period (FB).
- Northern Harrier** - One on January 10 at Pro (FR).
- Sharp-shinned Hawk** - One in Bar on December 3 and two on February 2 with one on February 27 in Hart (MS); one on December 13 in Bracken County and one on December 23 in Day (FR).
- Cooper's Hawk** - One on December 17 in Bel, one on January 1 at Melb and 2 on January 11 in Camp (FR); one on February 11 in Bar (MS); one on January 21 at Day (FR).
- Golden Eagle** - One adult on January 17 at Bern (DO); one immature on January 21 at Bern (DR).
- Prairie Falcon** - One on December 16 at RNWR (DR).
- American Kestrel** - Four on December 13 in Bracken County (FR).
- Wild Turkey** - 15 on December 27 in Robertson County (FR); ten on February 11 in Hart (MS).
- Sandhill Crane** - 63 on December 3, 65 on January 2, and 350+ on February 21 in Hart (MS); a total of 515 in five groups on December 31 at CHC (DO); one on January 31 at MCFH (FB).
- Least Sandpiper** - 4 on December 30 at Jon (DR).
- Laughing Gull** - One adult present on 10 dates through February 8 at KL and LBar (DR).
- Franklin's Gull** - One adult on February 8 at KL (DR).
- Bonaparte's Gull** - 500 on December 6 at Mel (FR); 100 on December 20 at Cra (LMc); 100 on December 28 at Mark (FR); 8 on January 9 at CRL (FB); 12 on February 12 at MCFH (FB).
- Ring-billed Gull** - 85+ on December 3, 85+ on December 4 and one on December 29 in Bar (MS); 300 on December 6 at Mel, 500 on December 28 at Mar and 300 on January 1 at Mel (FR); 200 on January 9 at CRL (FB); one on January 28 at LPew (JWH).
- Herring Gull** - Three on January 9 at MCFH (FB); only one on February 24 at LPew (JWH); 2 on February 26 at MCFH (FB).
- Thayer's Gull** - At least 3 from December 14 to February 24 at KL and LBar (DR).
- ICELAND GULL** - One first-year bird present on February 6 at LBar (DR).
- Lesser Black-backed Gull** - At least 2 on five dates between December 14 and February 24 at Smi and LBar (DR).

GLAUCOUS GULL - One on January 4 at Louisville Water Company basins, Jefferson Co. (DR).

Forster's Tern - 10 on December 2 at Jon and 1 on February 18 at Bar (DR).

Short-eared Owl - Six on January 3 at Pea (DO).

Red-headed Woodpecker - Two immatures on December 20 at Ott (DO).

Horned Lark - Four on December 10 at Mar (FR).

American Crow - Extremely large roost in northern Kentucky and Cincinnati area. Estimated roost near Day was in excess of 1000 with an estimated 29,000+ in the Taft and Columbia Parkway area of Cincinnati, Ohio. Many of these spent the day foraging in Kentucky before crossing to Ohio (FR).

Red-breasted Nuthatch - Three on December 27 near BBL (LMc); 10 on December 29 at New (FR); one to two at feeder during the period in Mad (JWH).

White-breasted Nuthatch - Eight on January 30 at CCSP (FR).

Brown Creeper - One on December 20 at Ott (DO).

Winter Wren - One on January 3 at Pea (DO).

Hermit Thrush - Two on December 20 at Ott (DO).

Eastern Bluebird - 40 on December 13 in Bracken County (FR).

Brown Thrasher - One observed more than 20 times during December through February at Ten (S).

Loggerhead Shrike - One on January 18 near Water Valley, Graves County (DO).

Palm Warbler - One in Warren County on February 26 (DR).

Pine Warbler - One on December 28 near BBL (LMc).

Eastern Towhee - One on December 5 and one on December 30 at SC (JP)

American Tree Sparrow - Eight on December 31 at Saw (DO).

Chipping Sparrow - Present through the period in Warren County with a high of 13 on February 5 (DR).

Savannah Sparrow - Three on January 3 at Pea (DO).

Le Conte's Sparrow - One on December 17 at RNWR (DR).

Fox Sparrow - One in Mad December 2 and 4 (JWH).

White-throated Sparrow - High numbers of 30 on February 5 and 25 on February 6 at Mad (JWH); numbers were lower than normal at Ten (S).

White-crowned Sparrow - No observations during the period at Ten (S); a total of 5 birds in December and January at SC, numbers well below normal for this area (JP).

Dark-eyed Junco - Four on December 3 at SC, noticeably low numbers this winter (JP).

Lapland Longspur - Approximately 300 on December 16 at RNWR (DR); 3 on January 18 at RNWR (DO)

Rusty Blackbird - Three on February 16 at Pet (LMc); a high number of 7 on February 27 in Warren County (DR).

Purple Finch - One on December 20 at Ott (DO).

Pine Siskin - 12 on December 31 and 10 on February 15 at CHC (DO); large

numbers during the season at feeder in Mad with a high of 92 on December (JWH).

Evening Grosbeak - Five on December 7 at Feeder in SC (JP).

Contributors - Fred Busroe (FB), James W. Hancock (JWH), Mary K. Harrel (MH), Lee McNeely (LMc), Darrin O'Brien (DO), Joyce Porter (JP), Frank Renfrow (FR), David Roemer (DR), Anne Stamm (S), Mitchel Sturgeon (MS).
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Corrigenda: The following are corrections for the Fall Migration, 1997 seasonal report: Craig's Creek is in Gallatin County, Mosely's Pond is in Logan County, Red-necked Grebe by DR was November 23, the White Ibis was observed on August 30, the Buff-breasted Sandpiper was observed at Laketon in Carlisle County, the 7 Least Terns on October 18 at Jon should be Least Sandpipers, delete the 35 Little Blue Herons in Mars on October 19 and delete Piping Plover in Mars on November 23, all records of the Olive-sided Flycatcher should be August, the Western Kingbird should be August 30-31, Swallow-tailed Kite should be 15 August to 7 September in the birds under review list.

Breeding Bird Survey of the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Kentucky and Tennessee, 1994-1996

Stephen J. Stedman

During 1994-1996, I conducted breeding bird surveys (BBS) in the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area (BSFNRR), Kentucky and Tennessee, following protocols recommended for BBSs conducted under the aegis of the Partner's in Flight (PIF) program (Ralph *et al.* 1992). These protocols depart somewhat, as described below, from those recommended for BBSs conducted for the Breeding Bird Survey Office (BBSO), now located in the Biological Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey (Robbins, Bystrak and Geissler 1986). Baseline abundance data on breeding birds of this site have been previously published. Results of surveys conducted in the BSFNRR are presented and discussed.

Study Area

The BSFNRR comprises an area of about 50,600 hectares (125,000 acres) lying within McCreary County Kentucky and Fentress, Morgan, Pickett and Scott counties, Tennessee. I have described the area elsewhere (Stedman 1995) in relation to a survey of spring Neotropical migrants found within its boundaries.

Methods

Three BBS routes were established totalling 100 stops to survey the relative abundance of birds residing within BSFNRR. One of these routes (named "Kentucky" BBS and including 32 stops) was placed entirely within the Kentucky portion of the park, and two (named the "Divide" and "Bandy" BBSs and including 68 stops)

were situated in Tennessee. The proportion of stops in the two states is roughly equivalent to the proportion of the park within the two states. An effort was made to include stops representing all major habitat types of the park on routes being surveyed. In particular, fifteen stops within the gorge of the Big South Fork near Station Camp and along the old O&W Railroad bed were included, both part of the Bandy BBS. Since the BSFNRRRA is managed as a natural area and contains few roads, establishing BBS routes that were representative of all habitat types was often imperfectly realized. Route stops probably overrepresent upland habitats such as oak forest and pine-oak forest while underrepresenting gorge habitats, such as riparian, hemlock, and mid- and upper -slope forest types.

The Kentucky BBS route began about 0.5 km north of the Kentucky/Tennessee state line on Divide Road and proceeded northeast to Peters Mountain Trailhead, including a total of seven stops disjunct from the remaining 25 stops. These disjunct stops began near Beech Grove and ran west, included stops on Laurel Ridge Road and two side roads--Waters Cemetery Road and King Cemetery Road.

The Divide BBS, comprising 34 stops, began at the BSFNRRRA boundary on Divide Road approximately 0.5 km east of Tennessee Highway 154 and ran northeast to the state line with stops on two side roads--Fork Ridge Road and Twin Arches Road.

The Bandy BBS had 34 stops in three sections that were disjunct from one another. The route began approximately 0.25 km east of West Entrance Trailhead on the dirt road running north of Tennessee Highway 297 toward Bandy Creek Visitor Center; ten stops were included in this section. The second section, comprised of 11 stops, began at the park boundary on the road to Station Camp and ended at the far end of the parking lot at Station Camp. The third section, comprised of 13 stops, began at the park boundary on the road to the O&W bridge and ended at North White Oak Creek.

Descriptions of exact locations of all stops surveyed during 1994-1996 on these BBS routes are on file in the Resource Management Office of the BSFNRRRA.

Stops were placed 0.5-0.8 km (0.3-0.5 mi) apart. The lower limit is less than that recommended by PIF and BBSO, but it was perhaps justified in the BSFNRRRA because birdsong probably does not carry as well in heavily forested areas as it does in more typical, less forested sites surveyed using roadside counts. Only a few stops were less than 0.65 km (0.4 mi) apart, so probably few birds were counted more than once on surveys.

At each stop a numbered, aluminum tag was attached to a tree trunk to mark the stop in a semi-permanent manner. During the second and third years of surveys, some tags had to be replaced because they had been removed or had become obscured as a result of annual tree growth.

Three BBS routes were conducted by automobile during each of three years. Surveys were conducted in late May and June (Table 1). Each survey route was started about 15 minutes before dawn (circa 0600 EDT); this time period was recommended by PIF protocols but is 15 minutes later than the start time recommended by the BBSO. All birds heard were counted at each stop regardless of

distance and all birds seen within 0.4 km (0.25 mi) for five minutes; this counting duration was recommended by PIF but is longer than the three-minute duration recommended by the BBSO. Data collected during the first three minutes was separated from data collected during the last two minutes. Data presented herein (Table 2) represent the number of stops at which species were detected for routes run with 5-minute stops, but the data sheets used (and now on file at the BSFNRRRA) would allow an interested researcher to isolate data representing the number of stops at which species were detected for routes run with 3-minute stops, if obtaining those results were considered desirable. Following PIF recommendations, birds recorded within 50 m of the stop center were separated from those recorded more than 50 m away. Weather data, including wind, sky and temperature conditions (Table 1), were noted at most stops, especially if weather conditions changed noticeably between stops.

Every effort was made to conclude each survey route as early in the morning as possible, but the large number of stops on each route and the five-minute counting period usually caused surveys to end between 10:00 and 11:00 a.m. EDT (*i.e.*, after the finish time recommended by PIF and BBSO).

Nocturnal species were surveyed separately from diurnal species. A route of 18 stops (six in Kentucky and 12 in Tennessee) of 3 minutes each were run before dawn on a night near full moon each year. Stop locations used for the nocturnal survey duplicated stops used for diurnal surveys of the Divide and Kentucky routes. These data were collected 0312-0452 EDT 28 May 1994 (moon two days past full; sky clear; wind Beaufort 0); 0308-0501 EDT 15 June 1995 (moon full; sky clear; wind Beaufort 1); and 0320-0440 EDT 1 June 1996 (moon full; sky mostly clear; wind Beaufort 3-4).

Results

Data for 65 species of birds were obtained during this three-year study (Tables 2 and 3), making it possible to judge relative abundance of species breeding in surveyed areas of the park. Ten species were common (*i.e.*, registered on 30-100 stops/year), nine fairly common (*i.e.*, registered 15-29.9 stops/year), 20 uncommon (*i.e.*, registered on 3-14.9 stops/year), and 26 very uncommon (*i.e.*, registered on 0.1-2.9 stops/year). Thirty species of Neotropical migrants (46% of total species registered) were among those recorded on the survey, indicating the suitability of the BSFNRRRA for breeding Neotropical migrants; seven were common, six fairly common, six uncommon, and 11 very uncommon.

Discussion

The value of the BBSs run in the BSFNRRRA should increase over time if they continue to be conducted. Besides the value as a means of determining relative abundance of breeding species, the BBSs should also allow trends in population levels to be detected. This would be true in particular for common and fairly common species. For uncommon and very uncommon species, trends may not be detectable unless a larger number of stops were surveyed.

Table 1. Temporal and Meteorological Data for Breeding Bird Surveys Conducted in the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Tennessee and Kentucky, 1994-1996.

Variable	Year	Survey Name		
		Kentucky	Divide	Bandy
Date Conducted	1994	22 June	26/28 May	16 June
	1995	22 June	31 May	15 June
	1996	14 June	1 June	13 June
Start Time (EDT)	1994	0623	0615	0600
	1995	0557	0604	0555
	1996	0556	0603	0611
End Time (EDT)	1994	1054	1035	1043
	1995	1019	1035	1040
	1996	1032	1010	1056
Start/End Sky*	1994	2/0	2/2	0/0
	1995	2/2	0/0	0/0
	1996	0/0	0/1	0/2
Start/End Wind**	1994	0/0	2/3	0/0
	1995	0/0	1/2	1/1
	1996	0/1	0/3-4	0/0
Start/End Temp. (°F)	1994	68/84	50s/70s	64/80
	1995	60s/70s	60/75	50s/70s
	1996	60s/60s	50s/60s	60s/70s

*Sky codes: 0=clear, 1=partly cloudy, 2=overcast.

** Wind codes: 0=<1mph, 1=1-3mph, 2=4-7mph, 3=8-12mph, 4=13-18mph.

The BBS data from the BSFNRRRA allow some generalizations about the park avifauna to be formulated. For instance, species diversity in the park is somewhat low (Table 4), especially when compared with species diversity at sites with greater habitat diversity. However, the low species diversity in the park is consonant with low species diversity reflected in studies of areas with similar habitat uniformity. Palmer-Ball (1996) and Nicholson (1997), while discussing results of breeding bird atlas projects in Kentucky and Tennessee, respectively, note that heavily forested areas, such as are found on the Cumberland Plateau where the BSFNRRRA is located, generally have a lower diversity of bird species than less densely forested areas.

Table 2. Results of Breeding Bird Surveys from Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Tennessee and Kentucky, 1994-1996.

Species	Number of Stops at which Recorded/Route and Year												Ave.Stops/ Year (of100)
	1994				1995				1996				
	Ky (32)	Div. (34)	Ban. (34)	Tot. (100)	Ky (32)	Div. (34)	Ban. (34)	Tot. (100)	Ky (32)	Div. (34)	Ban. (34)	Tot. (100)	
Wood Duck	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.3
Turk.Vulture	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.3
Red-sh. Hawk	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	3	1	0	1	2	1.7
Br-w. Hawk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.3
Wild Turkey	0	1	0	1	0	2	1	3	1	1	0	2	2.0
M. Dove	1	0	3	4	4	0	4	8	3	0	4	7	6.3
Y-b. Cuckoo	1	1	3	5	10	15	13	38	6	2	5	13	18.7
Chimn. Swift	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0.7
R-thr. Hum.	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0.7
Red-b. Wood.	0	0	0	0	4	2	0	6	0	0	0	0	2.0
Downy Wood.	9	2	3	14	2	3	3	8	4	3	1	8	10.0
Hairy Wood.	3	0	2	5	1	0	0	1	0	2	1	3	3.0
N. Flicker	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0.7
Pil. Wood.	5	10	12	27	5	8	11	24	4	5	5	14	21.7
E. W-Pewee	1	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	1	2	0	3	2.0
Acadian Fly.	2	0	3	5	2	0	5	7	2	1	4	7	6.3
E. Phoebe	1	1	2	4	3	2	4	9	2	0	1	3	5.3
Gr. Cr. Fly.	0	1	0	1	1	2	0	3	0	1	1	2	2.0
NR-w.Swall.	1	0	3	4	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	2.0
Blue Jay	2	4	5	11	4	3	4	11	5	3	1	9	10.3
Am. Crow	18	28	22	68	26	24	19	69	25	26	23	74	70.3
C. Chickadee	12	4	10	26	11	10	19	40	6	5	9	20	28.7
T. Titmouse	12	4	10	27	11	12	7	30	12	10	13	35	30.7
Wh.-br. Nut.	5	3	10	18	7	11	11	29	5	2	2	9	18.7
Carolina Wren	4	1	3	8	4	6	5	15	0	0	0	0	7.7
Bl-gr. Gnatc.	5	0	3	8	5	2	1	8	5	1	1	7	7.7
E. Bluebird	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.3
Wood Thrush	2	5	4	11	6	5	9	20	7	1	7	15	15.3
Am. Robin	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	1.3
Br. Thrasher	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	2	2	1.3
Cedar Waxw.	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	1.3
E. Starling	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.3
Wh-eyed Vir.	2	0	2	4	5	0	1	6	5	0	1	6	5.3
Bl-head. Vir.	2	1	3	6	1	4	3	8	3	0	0	3	5.7
Yel-thr.Vireo	1	1	2	4	2	0	2	4	0	1	1	2	3.3
Red-eyed Vir.	30	32	33	95	31	31	32	94	30	29	33	92	93.7
N. Parula	1	0	5	6	0	0	5	5	0	0	2	2	4.3
Ch-sided War.	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.3
Bl-thr. Gr. War	12	11	12	35	6	12	14	32	22	5	11	38	35.0
Yel-thr. Warbl	1	2	7	10	7	1	10	18	9	1	7	17	15.0
Pine Warbler	14	11	8	33	11	25	7	43	13	4	0	17	31.0

Table 2. continued.

	1994			1995			1996						
	Ky	Div.	Ban.	Tot.	Ky	Div.	Ban.	Tot.	Ky	Div.	Ban.	Tot.	
	(32)	(34)	(34)	(100)	(32)	(34)	(34)	(100)	(32)	(34)	(34)	(100)	
<i>Prairie Warb</i>	4	3	3	10	4	4	3	11	5	3	3	11	10.7
<i>Bl-and-wh. W.</i>	5	11	3	19	4	11	3	18	16	11	8	35	24.0
<i>Worm-eat. W</i>	3	6	2	11	6	9	8	23	15	5	11	31	21.7
<i>Swainson's W</i>	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.3
<i>Ovenbird</i>	24	31	16	71	24	31	21	76	29	27	21	77	74.7
<i>L. Waterthr.</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0.3
<i>Kentucky W.</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	3	1.3
<i>C. Yellowthr.</i>	4	1	1	6	3	2	3	8	6	1	3	10	8.0
<i>Hooded War.</i>	20	15	14	49	28	19	14	61	26	13	15	54	54.7
<i>Y-br. Chat</i>	10	3	1	14	12	4	3	19	16	1	2	19	17.3
<i>Sum. Tanager</i>	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0.3
<i>Scar. Tanager</i>	18	20	14	52	18	19	16	53	17	8	12	37	47.3
<i>N. Cardinal</i>	8	1	7	16	7	3	3	13	2	1	4	7	12
<i>Indigo Bunt.</i>	21	20	17	58	25	20	18	63	21	10	16	47	47.3
<i>E. Towhee</i>	8	3	5	16	11	2	4	17	6	2	2	10	14.3
<i>Chipping Sp.</i>	0	0	2	2	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	1.7
<i>Field Sparrow</i>	0	1	0	1	1	0	3	4	1	4	0	5	3.3
<i>Red-w. Black.</i>	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	3	0	0	1	1	1.7
<i>E.Meadowl.</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0.7
<i>Com. Grackle</i>	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0.7
<i>Br-h. Cowbird</i>	4	0	0	4	1	0	0	1	2	1	1	4	3.0
<i>Am. Goldfin.</i>	3	2	2	7	2	0	0	2	0	1	2	3	4.0

Note: Italicized names refer to Neotropical migrants

Table 3. Results of Nocturnal Roadside Surveys Conducted in Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Kentucky and Tennessee, 1994-1996.

Species	Year	Stops (%)
<i>Barred Owl</i>	1994	2(11)
	1995	2(11)
	1996	4(22)
	Ave.	2.7 (14.7)
<i>Whip-poor-will*</i>	1994	16(89)
	1995	15(83)
	1996	13(72)
	Ave.	14.7 (81.3)

*Neotropical migrant

Table 4. Numbers of Species Recorded on Breeding Bird Surveys in the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Kentucky and Tennessee, 1994-1996.

	Year	Survey Name			Totals
		Ky	Divide	Bandy	
Total Species	1994	44	36	40	52
	1995	44	38	43	56
	1996	43	38	43	55
3-Year Totals		55	48	53	65

Another characteristic of the BSFNRRRA avifauna reflected by the BBS data is its rich component of Neotropical migrant species. Nicholson (1997) notes that the percentage of Neotropical migrants present in heavily forested areas is often greater than the percentage of those species present in less forested areas. Thus, the relatively high percentage (46%) of Neotropical migrants in the BSFNRRRA, an area of heavy forest cover, is congruent with the high percentage of such species found in heavily forested atlas blocks in Tennessee.

The native breeding birds of the BSFNRRRA suffer little competition for food or nest sites from introduced species. No Rock Doves (*Columba livia*) or House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) were noted on these surveys, and only one European Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) was registered.

The breeding birds of the BSFNRRRA apparently also suffer little from the effects of brood parasitism and predation from raptors. Brown-headed Cowbirds (*Molothrus ater*) were registered on few stops during the three years of the survey. The apparent low numbers of breeding raptors in the BSFNRRRA may also affect breeding species in a positive manner though the BBS day may underrepresent the population levels of breeding raptors.

At least one negative factor associated with breeding bird success is clearly manifested by BBS data. American Crows (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), a predator of the eggs and especially nestlings of many songbirds, were registered commonly on surveys. The high numbers of crows on BBSs of the BSFNRRRA is perhaps expected since crows tend to increase in fragmented forest areas, such as those where roads have been constructed (Terborgh 1989).

A few comments related to data collected about specific breeding species in the BSFNRRRA are in order. The high variability of data for Yellow-billed Cuckoos (*Coccyzus americanus*) is noteworthy but difficult to explain. The absence of Carolina Wrens (*Thyrothorus ludovicianus*) in 1996 was probably weather related; the cold winter of 1995-1996 and the ensuing delayed spring undoubtedly reduced the population of this semi-hardy species. Northern Parulas (*Parula americana*) were detected more commonly on the Bandy BBS than the other two routes

because the Bandy route sampled the various mesic forest types of the gorge better than either of the other routes. Yellow-breasted Chats (*Icteria virens*) were more abundant on the Kentucky BBS than the other routes because the Kentucky route sampled more areas with secondary growth and young pine plantation than the other routes. Summer Tanagers (*Piranga rubra*) were very uncommon on all routes, being largely replaced by Scarlet Tanagers (*P. olivacea*), which are apparently better adapted to canopy conditions of the BSFNRRA forests than are Summer Tanagers. Exactly how forest conditions in the study area mitigate against Summer Tanagers is unclear as Indigo Buntings (*Passerina cyanea*) are common in the BSFNRRA and would seem to require the same types of forest openings and edge areas that Summer Tanagers prefer to the west in Kentucky and Tennessee.

It should be noted that at least 20 species of birds not registered on the BBSs of the BSFNRRA during any of the three years of this study have small- to moderate-sized breeding populations within the park. These species were not registered during the present survey partly because of stochastic factors and partly because the BBS survey method does not lend itself well to detection of some cryptic, nocturnal, reclusive or habitat-restricted species. Other means of establishing their presence must be used to supplement BBS. However, the method successfully detects a far larger number of species than it misses, especially those species that vocalize profusely during early morning.

The BBS data also suggested that changes should be made in the number of stops on each route. Routes with 32-34 stops of five minutes are about eight stops longer on each route. Routes with 32-34 stops of five minutes are about eight stops longer than desirable for optimal results. It was logistically impossible to complete routes before 10:00 a.m. EDT (Table 1), by which time birdsong often noticeably diminished. Thus, in 1997 the three BBSs were modified into four routes of 24-26 stops each, also totalling 100 stops. About 70 of the "old" stops were retained in creating the four new routes, and only one of the resulting new routes had disjunct sections. Results for the modified routes for 1997 and thereafter will be presented in later reports.

Acknowledgments

Robert G. Emmott and many other resource management personnel of Big South Fork National River and Recreational Area provided logistical support during the three years I conducted these surveys as a volunteer for the National Park Service. I thank them all for their efforts. I also thank the following readers for helpful comments that improved earlier versions of this report: Daniel L. Combs, Robert G. Emmott, Ginger K. Ensor, Kenneth L. Morgan, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. and Barbara H. Stedman.

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Kentucky Ornithological Society Annual Spring Meeting

April 24-26, 1998 at General Butler State Park, Carrolton Kentucky

The Spring meeting was opened at the Friday evening program with a welcome by President Wendell Kingsolver, who then turned the program over to Marilee Thompson. Vice President Thompson introduced the speakers who shared information about birding at various locations around the state accompanied by slides or videotapes. David Roemer and Mark Bennett showed video of birds from the westernmost part of the state, Fred Busroe showed slides of birds at the Minor Clark Fish Hatchery and Lee McNeely showed slides of birding areas in the northern part of the state. Field trips were decided on prior to adjournment of the meeting and a social hour in the Kingsolver's lodge room.

Birders departed on field trips to the Markland Dam area-Ghent Power Plant area and to Twin Eagles Wildlife Management Area at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday. One group remained in the General Butler State Park area.

The Board met in the Burley room at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Mr. Ron Austing, from the Miami-Whitewater area gave an excellent slide presentation of his "Favorite Images". More than excellent slides of birds, his presentation also focused on how he obtained the spectacular photographs of birds in hard to reach places. The Saturday evening program concluded with a compilation of the species list from the field trips and the organization of Sunday morning field trips.

Bird Species Observed on Field Trips

Species observed by groups on Saturday morning field trips included: Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Canada

Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, American Coot, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Ring-billed Gull, Forster's Tern, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Cliff Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, House Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, European Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Palm Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Louisiana Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Indigo Bunting, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow for a total of 94 species. Species added on Sunday field trips included Red-breasted Merganser and Bonaparte's Gull, bringing the weekend total to 96 species.

ATTENDANCE AT THE FALL MEETING

BEREA: Art Ricketts and Tina Ricketts

BOWLING GREEN: Valerie Brown, Blaine Ferrell, Bill Mopatin, David Roemer, and Joan Roemer

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

CARLISLE: Ginny Kingsolver and Wendell Kingsolver

DANVILLE: Neil Eklund

ELIZABETHTOWN: Doug Gebler and Janet Gebler

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

FLORENCE: Gloria DeWald and Linda Miller

LEXINGTON: Chuck Susie, Gerry Williams, and Jim Williams

LOUISVILLE: Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and Darrin O'Brien

MORGANTOWN: Carroll Tichenor and Doris Tichenor

MOREHEAD: Fred Busroe

MURRAY: Hap Chambers

OWENSBORO: Emily Kavolus, Dr. Michael Kavolus, Marilee Thompson, and Wendell Thompson

PROSPECT: Coleen Mansmith and Fred Mansmith

RICHMOND: Brenda Thompson and Pete Thompson

RUSSELLVILLE: Andrea Bennett and Mark Bennett

SCIENCE HILL: Roseanna Denton

SOMMERSET: Linda McClendon

UNION: Dr. K.E. Lamter

UTICA: Brenda Eaden and Tony Eaden

DYERSBURG, TN: Ken Leggett

GALESBURG, IL: Gene Johnson and Sue Johnson

KENTUCKY MIDWINTER EAGLE SURVEY 1998 State Summary

Prepared by: Laura S. Burford
March 16, 1998

The 1998 Midwinter Eagle Survey (MES) marked the twenty-first year Kentucky has been monitoring eagle populations in participation with the national eagle count. Kentucky's highest concentrations of wintering eagles occur at Ballard Wildlife Management Area, TVA's Land Between the Lakes, and Dale Hollow Lake, all of which have been surveyed since the 1970's. Since then, Bald Eagle populations have been increasing as the result of the banning of the pesticide DDT and widespread restoration efforts. Additional survey routes have been added since the national survey began. Thirty-five routes were surveyed during the 1998 season. Some routes were redefined this year to more accurately group geographic coverage areas, and a few others covered in the past were deleted due to lack of funding for surveys and/or cooperators.

The survey window for the 1998 National MES was January 02 through 16, with target dates set on January 09 and 10. Due to unseasonably warm temperatures and prolonged rain events during this period, some routes were not completely surveyed. Ice cover was not a factor during this year's MES. Daytime temperatures varied from 8 to 69 degrees during the survey period. Unseasonably warm conditions throughout the Midwest contributed to decreased waterfowl numbers in Kentucky during the first part of January. Eagle numbers likely did not peak until temperatures to the north became cooler and waterfowl moved south into the state.

With double counting taken into consideration, final tabulation indicated 162 Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) recorded during the MES window: 113 (69.8 %) were adults, 46 (28.4 %) were juveniles, and 3 (1.9 %) were not identified to age. There were seven Golden Eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) reported during the census period, 6 adults and 1 unknown age. Three eagles were not identifiable to species or age class, bringing the total number of eagles counted in Ken-

tucky during the 1998 MES to 172. Although the total number of Bald Eagles reported was the second lowest number recorded in the last seven years, age distribution has remained consistent with the past three years (1997, 1996, 1995): adults (71.3 %, 72.1 %, 63.4 %), juveniles (27.2 %, 25.6 %, 30.4 %), unknown class (1.1 %, 2.3 %, 6.3 %).

Table 1 summarizes the total number of eagles recorded for each route (including all observers and excluding double counts) by age class. Routes where no eagles were counted, or where eagles were counted outside the survey period are not included. Little information was returned by cooperators regarding the sightings of other raptor species.

ROUTE	BALD EAGLES			Grand Total	1997 Total	Record High # Eagles	Year
	Ad	Imm	Unk				
Ballard WMA	5	10	15	15	17	56	1990
Bernheim Forest	3	1	4	10 ^a	1	10	1998
Cave Run Lake	1	2	3	4 ^b	4	10	1989
Dale Hollow Lake (KY Portion)	14	6	3	23	23	38	1989
Fort Knox	1	3	4	4	NS	4	1998
Grayson Lake	2		2	2	3	4	1993
Green River Lake	8	2	10	10	11	13	1994
LBL (KY Portion)	31	14	45	45	122	154	1994
Lake Cumberland	16	3	19	21 ^c	15	33	1996
LaurelRiverLake	8		8	8	NS	13	1992
Mississippi River	3	1	4	4	32	72	1984
Nolin River Lake	3		3	3	4	4	1998
Ohio: Wickliffe to Carrsville	6	1	7	7	30	89	1986
Ohio: Carrsville to Henderson	2	2	4	4	0	15	1996
Ohio: Henderson to Brandenburg	4		4	4	1	4	1994
Ohio: Brandenburg to Louisville	2	1	3	3	6	6	1997
Reelfoot Lake NWR	2		2	2	6	21	1989
South Rolling Fork	1		1	1	0	1	1993
Taylorsville Lake	1		1	2 ^d	1	2	1996

TOTAL FOR 1998 113 46 3 162 172 275*

^a Bernheim Forest reported 4 adult golden eagles, and 2 eagles not identifiable to species or age class

^b Cave Run Lake reported 1 unknown age golden eagle

^c Lake Cumberland reported 2 adult golden eagles

^d Taylorsville Lake reported 1 eagle not identifiable to species or age class

* Note: the 1997 total represents a different combination of routes than reported in 1998.

---Department of Fish and Wildlife, 1 Game Farm Road, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.

Acknowledgments

This MES was completed through the efforts of 108 individuals representing the Audubon Society, Bernheim Forest, Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Kentucky Ornithological Society, Kentucky State Parks, Kentucky State Police, Morehead State University, Murray State University, National Park Service, Somerset Bird Club, Tennessee Ornithological Society, Tennessee Valley Authority (Land Between the Lakes), U. S. Department of the Army, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U. S. Forest Service, and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency as well as several private citizens.

FIELD NOTE

January Sighting of Palm Warbler in Rowan County

During midmorning on 02 JAN 1998 while conducting bird counts as part of my participation in Project Feeder Watch (through Cornell University Laboratory of Ornithology), I observed a bird "bobbing" among the grassy openings near the bird feeder in my backyard. The bird proved to be a Palm Warbler (*Dendroica palmarum*). The previous day (01 JAN) it had snowed 2-6 inches, and the lone, healthy palm warbler was searching for food (I assume) among the grassy openings where the snow had melted. The air temperature when the palm warbler was observed was in the low-to-mid 30's. January 02 was the only day I observed the Palm Warbler.

Although a common transient, it is extremely rare to rare in winter in Kentucky (Monroe, B L, Jr, *et al.* 1988. Annotated Checklist of Birds of Kentucky. KOS); however, they quote Mengel (420; KW 59:30, 1983) who reported occasionally birds (Palm Warblers) linger well into winter, some of which may overwinter during milder years." Recently Monroe (1994. *The Birds of Kentucky*. Indiana Univ. Press) stated this bird as being rare by mid-November.

I am reporting this sighting chiefly due to the time of year and location the Palm Warbler was observed.-- **Lew Kornman, 585 Bluestone Rd., Morehead, KY 40351.**

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. Burt L. Monroe, Jr. Avian Research Grant Fund

Persons that need money (*i.e.*, up to \$500) to assist them in conducting research on birds in Kentucky should contact the K.O.S. Burt L. Monroe, Jr. Avian Research Fund Committee c/o Blaine Ferrell, Department of Biology, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101 (email: Ferrebr@wku.edu) for a set of guidelines and an application form