

11-1998

Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 74, no. 4)

Kentucky Library Research Collections
Western Kentucky University, spcol@wku.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ky_warbler



Part of the [Ornithology Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Kentucky Library Research Collections, "Kentucky Warbler (Vol. 74, no. 4)" (1998). *Kentucky Warbler*. Paper 315.
http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/ky_warbler/315

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in Kentucky Warbler by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact topscholar@wku.edu.

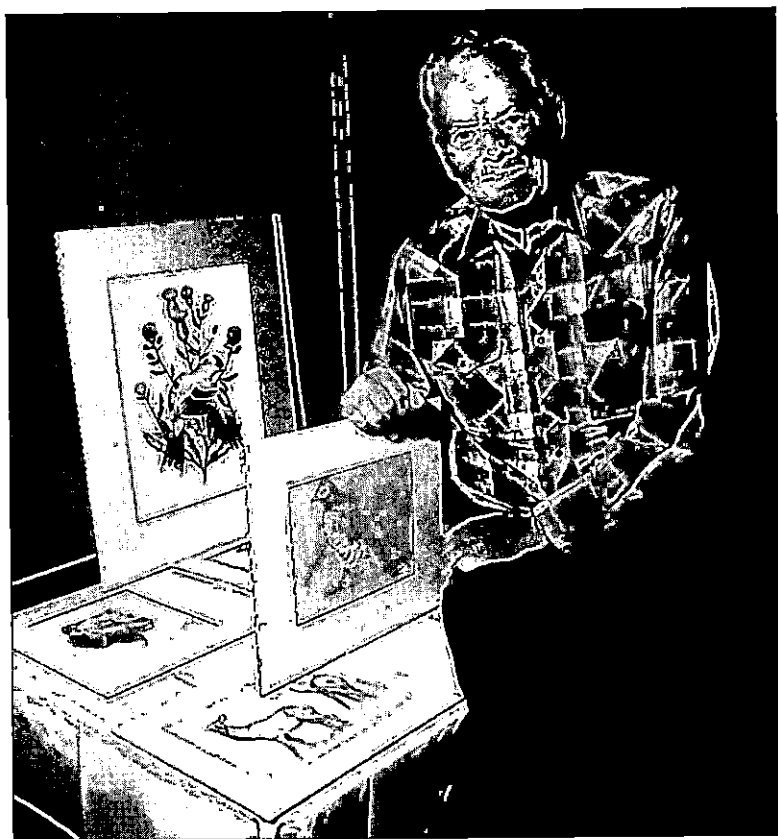
The Kentucky Warbler

(Published by Kentucky Ornithological Society)

VOL. 74

NOVEMBER 1998

NO. 4



IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|--|----|
| THE SUMMER SEASON, 1998, Fred Busroe | 71 |
| THE 75th ANNIVERSARY FALL MEETING OF THE K.O.S., Mark Bennett | 75 |
| HISTORY OF K.O.S., Ginny Kingsolver | 77 |
| FIELD NOTES | 84 |
| BOOK REVIEW, Blaine Ferrell | 96 |
| NEWS AND VIEWS | 96 |

THE KENTUCKY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

| | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| President | Wayne M. Mason, Bowling Green |
| Vice-President | Wendell Kingsolver, Carlisle |
| Corr. Secretary | Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. Old Westport Road, Louisville, KY 40222 |
| Treasurer | Lee McNeely P.O. Box 463, Burlington, KY 41005 |
| Recording Secretary | Neil Eklund, Danville |
| Councillors: | |
| Mark Bennett, Russellville | 1996-1998 |
| Steve Kisiler, Munfordville | 1996-1998 |
| Kathy Caminiti, Crittenden | 1997-1999 |
| Joyce Porter, Falls of Rough | 1997-1999 |
| Retiring President | Herbert Clay, Jr., Falls of Rough |

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.

Editor..... B.R. Ferrell, Biology Department, Western Kentucky Univ.
Bowling Green, 42101

Editorial Advisory Board

Anne L. (Mrs. F.W.) Stamm and Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

Secretary, Kentucky Bird Records Committee.....Lee McNeely
P.O. Box 463, Burlington, KY 41005

THE COVER

Thanks to Wendell Thompson for this excellent photograph of, Ray Harm, our staff artist and keynote speaker at the 75th Anniversary Fall meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society.

THE SUMMER SEASON, 1998

Fred M. Busroe

The months of June and July had normal to above normal temperatures. Precipitation was heavy during the early summer but most of the state was very dry during July.

The transient lakes near Woodburn, Warren County, provided several notable records including White Ibis and Little Gull (a first for the state--under KBRC review). In far western Kentucky, Black-necked Stilts successfully nested in Fulton County for the first time since 1993. Visits to Big Black Mountain, Harlan County produced several interesting warbler observations.

The listing of species in this report is following the new A.O.U. checklist of North American Birds, 7th edition.

Abbreviations -- All = Allen County; Bark = Barkley Dam, Livingston/Lyon counties; Bern = Bernheim Forest, Bullitt/Nelson counties; BBS = Breeding Bird Survey; BBMt = Big Black Mountain, Harlan County; CCSP = Carter Caves State Park, Carter County; Cha = Chaney Lake, Warren County; Cro = Crocker Pond, Logan County; Dra = Drake's Creek, Warren County; Falls = Falls of Ohio, Jefferson County; Fish = Fish Pond, Fulton County; Ful = Fulton County; Hart = Hart County; HB = Lower Hickman Bottoms, Fulton County; Isl = Island #8 Slough, Fulton County; Jes = Jesse Stuart Nature Preserve, Greenup County; KDam = Kentucky Dam, Livingston/Marshall counties; Kom = Koomer Ridge Campground, Wolf County; L#9 = Lake #9, Fulton County; LBark = Lake Barkley, Lyon County; LBL = Land Between the Lakes, Trigg County; Lew = Lewis County; Log = Logan County; Mad = Madisonville, Hopkins County; Mas = Masterson Park, Lexington, Fayette County; Open = Open Pond, Fulton County; Phil = floodplain slough north of Phillip, TN, Fulton County; PWMA = Peabody Wildlife Management Area, Ohio/Muhlenberg counties; Petr = Petros, Warren County; Rock = Rockbridge Trail, Red River Gorge, Wolfe County; Silo = Silo Overlook, Trigg County; Swan = Swan Lake, Ballard County; Wal = Walton's Pond, Warren County; West = Westvaco WMA, Carlisle County; Warn = Warren County; Wild = Wilder, Campbell County; Wood = Woodburn, Warren County; Yel = Yellowbank WMA, Breckinridge County.

Common Loon - One at McEl through June 6 (DR).

Pied-billed Grebe - One on June 21 in Ful (Hap); 3 at Isl with one on nest on July 3 (MB); observed at Cha through the period (*fide* DR).

American White Pelican - 51 on July 3 at L#9 (DO); 105 on July 3 in HB (MB); 55 on July 8 at Phil (JE, MM, CP); 65 on July 11 in Ful (CP).

Double-crested Cormorant - Three on June 17 near levee in Ful (CP); one on June 30 at McEl (DR).

Great Blue Heron - Good numbers, widely distributed west of LBark during the season (CP); 12 on June 21 and 2 on July 18 in Ful (Hap); 61 on July 3 in HB (MB).

Great Egret - Abundant in HB during the period (CP); 20+ on June 26 at Open (MM, CP); 12 on June 21 in Ful (Hap); 253 on July 3 in HB (MB); 20+ on

July 8 at Open (JE, MM, CP); 11 on July 17 at Wal (LD); 3 on July 18 in Ful (Hap); one on July 20-31 in Hart (MS); approx. 120 on July 29 at Open (MM, CP); observed from June 28 through the period at Wood (DR).

Snowy Egret - One to three observed during the season in Ful (CP); 2 on July 4 in Ful (DO).

Little Blue Heron - 20 on June 26 and 28 on July 29 at Open (MM, CP); 28 on July 3 at Is1 (MB); 2 immatures at Cha on July 17 (LD); 6 on July 18 in Ful (Hap); a high number of 20 (all immatures) at Wal on July 20 (DR).

Cattle Egret - Two to 8 observed irregularly during season west of LBar (CP); 15 on June 15 in All (DR).

Black-crowned Night-Heron - Four at Falls on June 23 (MB); one at McEl/Cha area from July 3 through the period (DR); 50+ on July 13 at Bark (MB); 5 (1 adult and 4 immatures) on July 17 at Cha (LD).

Yellow-Crowned Night-Heron - Observed from July 3 through the period with a high count of 17 on July 29 at Cha (DR, LD); 5 immatures at Cha on July 17 (LD).

WHITE IBIS - One immature observed at McEl July 12; then at Cha from July 23 through the period (DR).

Black Vulture - Seven observed on June 7 on BBS in Ful (Hap, CP). 1

Blue-winged Teal - Nested at McEl with a brood of 8 young seen on July 17 (DR).

Northern Shoveler - One male in eclipse plumage on July 20 at McEl (DR).

Ring-necked Duck - One male on June 3 at McEl and one female from July 26 to 29 at Cha (DR).

Hooded Merganser - Several young observed during the period at McEl (DR).

Ruddy Duck - One on June 14 at Petr (DR); 2 on June 20 at McEl (MB).

Osprey - Three nests with young observed on July 1: (1) 2 adults and 2 young near neat on west shore of LBark, Trigg Co., (2) 2 adults and 2 young near Silo, and (3) nest with 2 young LBL (CP) .

Mississippi Kite - One on June 21 in Ful (Hap); only one to two observed during the period in HB (CP); one on July 3 in HB (MB); 2 on July 4 at Fish (DO).

Bald Eagle - One subadult on June 23 at Open (CP) ; one immature on July 3 in HB (MB).

Cooper's Hawk - One on June 16 in Hart (MS); a pair raised 3 young at Lexington Cemetery (JW).

Wild Turkey - One female with 6 young on June 11 in Hart (MS).

Black-bellied Plover - One on June 14 and July 23 at McEl (DR).

Semipalmated Plover - One on June 23 and July 23 at McEl (*fide* DR).

Killdeer - 38 on June 21 and 100 on July 18 in Ful (Hap); approx. 1000 on July 23 at McEl (DR); 40+ on July 29 at Open (MM, CP).

BLACK-NECKED STILT - Four pairs nested in Open with the following observations - 10 (8 adults and 2 young) on June 21(MM, Hap);

9 (7 adults and 2 young) on June 26 (MM, CP); 10 on July 3 (DO); approx. 19 on July 3 (MB); 14 (12 adults and 2 young) on July 8 (JE, CP); 2 (1 adult and 1 young) on July 21 (Hap); 1 adult on July 29 (MM, CP).

Lesser Yellowlegs - 13 on July 17 at Cro (MB).

Solitary Sandpiper - One on July 2 at McEl (DR).

Willet - One to two observed from July 8 to July 18 at McEl (DR).

Ruddy Turnstone - One on June 6 at McEl (DR); one on June 21 at Open (Hap).

Sanderling - One on June 5 and July 20 at McEl (DR).

Western Sandpiper - One on July 14 at McEl (DR); 2 on July 17 at McEl (MB); 3 on July 21 in Ful (Hap).

Least Sandpiper - One on June 29 at McEl (DR); 4 on July 21 in Ful (Hap).

White-rumped Sandpiper - One lingered at McEl until July 20 (DR, DO); one at McEl on July 3 (DO).

Pectoral Sandpiper - One on June 14 and July 3 at McEl (DR); 3 on July 29 at Open (MM, CP).

Dunlin - One on June 8 at McEl (DR).

Stilt Sandpiper - One on July 8 at McEl (DR); 9 on July 17 at McEl (MB); one on July 18 at McEl (DO).

Buff-breasted Sandpiper - Two adults from July 24 to 26 at McEl (DR); 3 on July 27 at McEl (DO).

Short-billed Dowitcher - One on June 30 at McEl (DR); 4 at McEl and 2 at Cro on July 17 (MB).

Laughing Gull - One on July 13 at KDam (MB).

Franklin's Gull - One from July 11 to 20 at McEl (DR); one on July 15 at McEl (MB, DR); one on July 18 at McEl (DO).

LITTLE GULL - One first year bird (video-taped) at McEl from June 9-17 (DR).

Caspian Tern - Two on June 24 in Ful (CP); one on July 12 at McEl (DR); one on July 18 in Ful (Hap).

Least Tern - One on June 12 at McEl (DR); 20 on June 21 in Ful (Hap); 30 on June 24 at Open, with several nests (CP); 40+ on June 25 at Open (ME, CP); 40+ on June 26 at Open (MM, CP); 12 on July 7 near Swan (CP); 2 on July 3 at HB (MB).

Black Tern - One on June 15 and July 23 at McEl (DR); 5 on June 21 in Ful (Hap).

Barn Owl - One immature at Yel on July 15 (MB, DR).

Great Horned Owl - Two adults and 3 young heard on at least 20 occasions in Hart during the period (MS).

Olive-sided Flycatcher - One on July 24 at Dra (DR).

Acadian Flycatcher - Two on June 6 and 4 on June 7 at CCSP (FR)

Bell's Vireo - Three on July 3 at PWMA (DO).

Blue-headed Vireo - A total of 6 on July 8 At BBMt (FR).

Fish Crow - Nine on June 21 in Ful (CP); 3 on July 4 at West (DO).

- Bank Swallow** - 200+ in colony on June 28 just south of Hickman, Ful (MM, CP); 20 on July 28 at Open (JE, MM, CP); 6 on July 29 at Open (MM, CP).
- Red-breasted Nuthatch** - One male singing on July 7 and a total of 5 including a pair feeding one young on July 9 at Rock (FR).
- Bewick's Wren** - One on June 10 in central Log (MB); one on June 12 in Log (DR).
- Veery** - A total of seven were observed or heard on July 8 at BBMt (FR).
- Blue-winged Warbler** - Two on June 8 at CCSP (FR).
- Northern Parula** - 8 on June 7 at CCSP and 2 on June 10 at Jes (FR).
- Chestnut-sided Warbler** - Two adults with one feeding a fledgling on July 8 at BBMt and one immature on July 26 in Lew (FR).
- Black-throated Blue Warbler** - An adult feeding a fledgling July 8 at BBMt (FR).
- Black-throated Green Warbler** - Ten on July 7 at Rock (FR).
- Cerulean Warbler** - Three on June 7 and 3 on June 10 at CCSP (FR).
- Worm-eating Warbler** - Six at CCSP on June 5 and 7 (FR); 3 on June 23 at Bern (MB); one on July 26 at Lew (FR).
- Swainson's Warbler** - 4 at Rock and one at Kom on July 1 (FR).
- Ovenbird** - Many observations from June 5 - 8 at CCSP (FR); one on June 23 at Bern (MB).
- Louisiana Waterthrush** - Five on June 7 at CCSP (FR).
- Kentucky Warbler** - One on June 7 at CCSP (FR).
- Hooded Warbler** - Nine on June 7 at CCSP and 10 on July 7 at Rock (FR).
- Canada Warbler** - Five on July 8 at BBMt (FR).
- Blue Grosbeak** - One male and one female observed on 18 occasions during June in Hart (MS); several observations near Wild including nest with 4 young (FR); two pairs observed in central Log throughout the season (MB).
- Dickcissel** - One on June 12 and 6 on July 18 in Ful (Hap); 18 counted along road near Mad on June 25 (JH).
- Lark Sparrow** - Two (a pair) on 27 July at Vance Road, Warn (MB, DR) that subsequently nested fledging three young on July 23 or 24 (DR).
- Grasshopper Sparrow** - Five on June 27 in central Log (MB).
- Henslow's Sparrow** - One in Ohio Co. on July 3 (DO).
- Dark-eyed Junco** - A total of 11 including an adult feeding 2 young on July 8 at BBMt (FR).
- Bobolink** - At least 6 nesting pairs at Maš (JW); several nesting pairs in Boyle Co. with adults observed carrying food (BK, JW).
- Contributors** - Mark Bennett (MB), Hap Chambers (Hap), Lester Doyle (LD), Melissa Easley (ME), Joe T. Erwin (JE), James W. Hancock (JH), Bill Kimper (BK), Mike Miller (MM), Darrin O'Brien (DO), Clell Peterson (CP), Frank Renfrow

(FR), David Roemer (DR), Mitchell Sturgeon (MS), Jim Williams (JW).

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

**The 75th Anniversary Fall Meeting of the K.O.S.
Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park, September 25-27**

By Mark Bennett

The 75th anniversary Fall meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society convened at Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park on September 25, 1998. The meeting was called to order by President Wendell Kingsolver at 7:30 in the evening. Posters depicting the history of the Society, prepared by Kathy Caminiti and Lee McNeely, adorned the convention center walls. Prints by Ray Harm and photos of notable recent bird findings were also displayed in the hall. The program for Friday evening was highlighted by an historical overview of the Society presented by Ms. Ginny Kingsolver.

The celebration of the 75th anniversary of the organization continued with the reading of the names of past KOS presidents. Former KOS presidents in attendance were invited to offer a brief reflection or memory of KOS. Those former presidents in attendance were Ann Stamm, James Hancock, Clell Peterson, Herb Shadowen, Willard Gray, A. L. Whitt, Jr., Andy Uterhart, Blaine Ferrell, Fred Busroe, Jim Williams, Ginny Kingsolver, and Lee McNeely.

Other features of the program on Friday evening were a slide presentation of "Notable Kentucky Bird Records" by Lee McNeely, a slide presentation of "Confusing Fall Warblers" in quiz format by Brainard Palmer-Ball Jr., and a video of some unusual species recorded at the Transient Lakes of Woodburn by Lester Doyle.

On Saturday morning, Wendell Thompson took a group photograph in front of the park lodge at 7:45 AM. Field trips departed from the lodge at 8:00 a.m. for three locations. Society field trips explored the Land Between the Lakes, Hap Chambers leader, Kentucky Dam and Northern Lake Barkley, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. leader, and Smithland Dam, Mark Bennett leader. An informal walk around the lodge was an alternative. KOS member, Rowena Cary, invited members to her nearby lakeside home for lunch. Several KOS members combined Rowena's hospitality with birding and a beautiful view.

Saturday evening's program was highlighted by a lecture from renowned wildlife artist Ray Harm entitled "The Life of a Wildlife Artist". Mr. Harm enchanted the members with an account of his early days in art and other endeavors as well as his Kentucky experiences.

Society business was conducted Saturday evening as well. The following were elected as officers for 1999: Wendell Kingsolver, President, Marilee Thompson, Vice President, Mark Bennett, Recording Secretary, Brainard Palmer-Ball Jr., Corresponding Secretary, and Lee McNeely, Treasurer. Darrin O'Brien and Hap Chambers were elected as Councillors for two-year terms that run through the year 2000.

On Sunday morning a single organized field trip lead by Hap Chambers de-

parted for Jonathan Creek at 8:00 a.m. The trip also included Blood River before ending at about 3:30 p.m. Sunday afternoon. Thus came the end of the 75th anniversary meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society. A total of 122 species was tallied over the weekend.

MEETING ATTENDANCE

BOWLING GREEN: Lester Doyle, Blaine Ferrell, Elizabeth Ferrell,
Marvin Russell, David Roemer, Joanie Roemer, Herb Shadowen
and Jacky Shadowen

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

CADIZ: Mabel Gray and Willard Gray

CARLISLE: Ginny Kingsolver and Wendell Kingsolver

CUNNINGHAM: Maurica Toon

COX'S CREEK: Dona Coates and Roger Coates

DANVILLE: Ginny Eklund and Neil Eklund

DYERSBURG, TN: Betty Leggett and Ken Leggett

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

GILBERTSVILLE: Rowena Cary, E.J. Conrad and Madelyn Conrad

JAMESTOWN: Arlene Morton

LEXINGTON: Phyllis Neal, Marie Sutton, Andy Uterhart, Gerry
Williams and Jim Williams

LOUISVILLE: Richard Cassell, Robert Dever, Rose Mary

Johnson, Derrick Neese, Kim Neese, Doxie Noonan, Darrin

O'Brien, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Martha S. Pike and Anne Stamm

MACEO: Neal Hayden

MADISONVILLE: James W. Hancock, Brenda James and Max
James

MAYFIELD: Helen Sullivan and Robert Sullivan

METROPOLIS, IL: Donald Bennett and Joann Bennett

MOREHEAD: Fred Busroe

MURRAY: Hap Chambers, Mike Miller and Clell Peterson

NEW ALBANY, IN: David Habermel and Jacque Habermel

OWENSBORO: Bob Hast, Carolyn Hast, Janet Howard, Michael

Kavolas, Young Kim, Marilee Thompson, Wendell Thompson, Carroll
Tichenor, Doris Tichenor and Bill Tyler

PADUCAH: Bernice Cadell, Bill Weber and Melinda Weber

RICHMOND: Gary Ritchison, Tammy Ritchison, A.L. Whitt and Millie Whitt

RUSSELLVILLE: Andrea Bennett and Mark Bennett

SCIENCE HILL: Roseanne Denton

SOMERSET: Linda McClendon and Margaret York

UNION: Karen Stephens and Tommy Stephens

UTICA: Brenda M. Eaden and Tony D. Eaden

BIRDS OBSERVED AT THE FALL MEETING 1998

Species observed at the Fall meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society at Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park September 25-27 were as follows: Pied-billed Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Little Blue Heron, Cattle Egret, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Green-winged Teal, Mallard, Northern Pintail, Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Lesser Scaup, Red-breasted Merganser, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Wild Turkey, Northern Bobwhite, American Coot, Black-bellied Plover, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Sanderling, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Common Snipe, American Woodcock, Laughing Gull, Franklin's Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Caspian Tern, Forster's Tern, Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Eastern Phoebe, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Swainson's Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, American Pipit, Cedar Waxwing, European Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Tennessee Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Yellow-throated Warbler, Pine Warbler, Palm Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, Common Yellowthroat, Summer Tanager, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, House Finch, American Goldfinch and House Sparrow for a total of 122 species.

HISTORY OF K.O.S.
75TH ANNIVERSARY, SEPTEMBER 1998
by Ginny Kingsolver

This is a celebration to remember our roots as a Society, to recognize people who have helped make it such a vital organization throughout the state, and perhaps more importantly, to remember that it's the vitality and integrity of members contributing today that keeps us alive and well. It's the continuity from past to present to future that we celebrate this evening on KOS's 75th anniversary.

More details of our history are on the posters that Kathy Caminiti and Lee McNeely have put together. This will go into a scrapbook to stay with our archives. If you have things to add, they would be most welcome.

I think we'll begin with a history of how we were founded and by whom.

As I looked for information about our beginnings, I found an article by Dr. Gordon Wilson, *The First 40 Years of KOS* in a 1963 *Kentucky Warbler*, also one by Albert Ganier, founder of the Tennessee Ornithological Society in 1915 and mentor to the founders of KOS. Then in 1973, our 50th anniversary, our history was written by Evelyn Schneider and there was *A Salute to KOS* by Albert Ganier. In addition, Anne Stamm sent me her remembrances of the organization - so all of this comes from these sources, but mostly from Anne, to whom we owe so much.

The Kentucky Ornithological Society was organized at Louisville, April 1923. For the early history, we need to refer to the writings of Dr. Gordon Wilson one of the three founders. Here is how it all began. He mentioned that at Christmas 1918, he supervised the first Christmas bird count (called a census) at Bowling Green and submitted the results to *Bird Lore* (later became *Audubon Field Notes*). He was delighted when he received his copy of *Bird Lore* in the Spring of 1919 and saw his "first ornithological publication." He was further pleased when a few days later he received a visit from Albert F. Ganier, a civil engineer from Nashville, Tennessee, who had seen the census and had come to urge him to start a state organization in Kentucky. Wilson mentioned "While he was here, I took a short hike with him, the first time I had ever seen a real authority in ornithology. However, at that time I did not know that there was any other active bird student in the whole state except me, but Mr. Ganier kept writing me about the advantages of having a state society and induced me to become a member of the Wilson Ornithological Club (now called Society)."

Mr. Ganier kept telling the Kentuckians of the advantages of a state society and how they could be of help. Early in 1923, Dr. Otley Pindar, a physician in Versailles, Mr. B. C. Bacon, civil service man of Madisonville, and Dr. Gordon Wilson, an English teacher of Bowling Green, had been exchanging letters and discussing plans for getting together to constitute a state ornithological society. Early in 1923 they "planned to meet at the Seelbach Hotel in Louisville on Friday of the week when the Kentucky Education Association (KEA) was in session." Mr. Bacon was unable to attend, but he sent suggestions for a constitution that remained in force until the adoption of our present constitution in 1940, which was revised in 1991. Since they now had three members, Dr. Wilson stated that they "proceeded to elect or appoint Dr. Pindar as the oldest practicing ornithologist of the state, as our president; Mr. Bacon as Vice-president, and me (Gordon Wilson) as secretary treasurer." Kentucky now had a state ornithological society founded that day in April 1923. There now were two state ornithological societies in the entire South: Kentucky and Tennessee. "There were less than a half dozen others in the entire country" at that time. The Louisville newspaper sent a reporter to cover the conference and gave the new society "much needed publicity."

Dr. Wilson, as secretary-treasurer, began to write letters to prospective members and scheduled a full program for the first Spring meeting in 1924. At that

time, he was secretary of the Wilson Club, and asked that society "to accept the new state society as an affiliate." Mr. Ganier was the president and arranged for the new club "to become a part of that great Society at once."

The first meeting of the Society (KOS) occurred at Louisville in April 1924, with a rather lengthy program, including a bibliography of Kentucky Ornithology by Dr. Pindar (a paper unfortunately lost) and a discussion of the birds of the Bardstown region by Mr. Blincoe which included his own additions to the list prepared in the 1880's by Mr. C. W. Beckham." Fortunately, this paper was published later in *The Auk*, and according to Dr. Wilson, is "one of the basic studies of Kentucky Ornithology."

A joint meeting was held with the Tennessee Ornithological Society and the Wilson Ornithological Club at Nashville. The ten KOS members who were present "got our first glimpse of outstanding scholars in our field."

"The 1924 Spring meeting at Louisville began a series that ran regularly except for three years in World War II - until 1956, when this annual session was moved to Bowling Green." The KEA gave KOS a small grant each spring to bring a speaker from some distance to lecture or show a movie on birds during the conference. The teachers at the KEA meetings could avail themselves of this opportunity, especially the science teachers.

In 1956 the KEA had to drop some organizations that didn't really belong such as KOS, Kentucky Folk Lore Society, etc., perhaps for financial reasons. At that time KOS decided to assist Dr. Wilson at the Spring meetings with his study at the wet-weather lakes, near Woodburn and to visit the mouth of Gasper area and the area of Dr. L.Y. Lancaster's cabin. Our headquarters there was the Lost River Motel, Bowling Green. Kentucky - 1956 to 1963.

In the early years KOS gave an award to the member of the Kentucky Junior Academy of Science, writing the best paper on birds. The award was \$5.00 and a year's subscription to the Kentucky Warbler. The winning paper was published in our quarterly magazine.

"At the beginning of 1925, *The Kentucky Warbler* named for the only bird that bears the name of our state, made its meek and humble bow to the world. At that time and for some years afterwards, it consisted of 4 small issues of 4 pages each, but we followed pretty much the order that still prevails in our magazine", *The Kentucky Warbler*. Now finishing its 74th volume and somewhat enlarged with issues averaging 16 to 24 pages each, it has had only six editors-in-chief: Gordon Wilson, Burt L. Monroe, Sr., Harvey B. Lovell, Anne L. Stamm, Herbert E. Shadowen and Blaine Ferrell. (We would like to give special recognition tonight to Anne, Herb and Blaine for their outstanding work over the years). Our quarterly publication is well known all over the country, and its "articles are abstracted in Biological Abstracts and other standard bibliographical publications." We have many requests for reprints of various bird articles from all across the U.S. and from European countries.

Today the journal is mailed, in addition to members, to 23 libraries, colleges, and schools which are paid subscribers and to 29 state and national societies with whom an exchange of publications is maintained. We have complete back files of the Warbler.

Our programs use our own talent and some of the outstanding ornithologists from neighboring states, also from ornithological groups such as the American Ornithologists' Union, the Wilson Ornithological Society, Fish and Wildlife, etc. We encourage graduate students to give programs on their research and support them with our funds. Members share unusual sightings at these meetings.

At the invitation of Elton Fawks, Illinois, Chairman of the Mississippi Valley Bald Eagle Investigation Winter Study, KOS cooperated with him from 1961-1979. This survey was expanded in 1979 by the National Wildlife Federation Raptor Information Center to include all 48 contiguous states. James Durell, Assistant Director, Kentucky Division of Game Management, was asked by the Raptor Center to coordinate the count in Kentucky. Durell invited the KOS, which had been taking a one-day count in the state for the past 19 years in cooperation with Mr. Fawks, to work with him in this project. The count now is part of a total nationwide project rather than just the Mississippi River and its tributaries. KOS accepted the invitation from Mr. Durell and is still participating in the counts in Kentucky. The count results are published in *The Kentucky Warbler*.

The nationwide Breeding Bird Survey, conducted through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Resources, has been a part of KOS work since 1966 and is still ongoing.

The Society has participated in the Nest Card Program in cooperation with the Laboratory of Ornithology, Cornell University since 1965.

In 1948-1952 members in Louisville and Murray took part in counting birds in nocturnal flight in both spring and fall as seen across the full moon through telescopes. Mr. Charles Strull, a member and also an astronomer, supervised the project. The information from numerous stations across the country was the subject of a study by Dr. George H. Lowery, Jr. of Louisiana State University, which he published under the title *A Quantitative Study of the Nocturnal Migration of Birds*.

In 1983, Dr. Russell Starr and his wife Faye, of Glasgow donated their 95 acre wildlife refuge, Brigadoon, to the Nature Conservancy. This refuge is to be managed by Western Kentucky University for wildlife research purposes through Dr. Herbert E. Shadowen and Professor Wayne Mason, members of KOS.

The Summary of Occurrence of Birds of Kentucky, compiled by Burt L. Monroe, Jr. was a project by the KOS and according to Monroe, "it reflects the cooperative effort of many members of the organization. In addition to reports dating back to the time of Audubon, records up through December 31, 1968 are included."

The holdings of the Society include three invested funds, one of which is the Endowment Fund, initiated with the bequest of Dr. Pindar, and augmented by payments of life memberships.

Another is a fund honoring Dr. Gordon Wilson for his devoted service to the Society known as the Gordon Wilson Fund for Ornithology. The income from this fund is to be used for certain specific purposes which is in *The Kentucky Warbler* 64:59, 1958.

The third fund, the Avian Research Fund established recently in honor of Burt L. Monroe, Jr., has been supported by contributions from our own members and a generous annual contribution from the Beckham Bird Club.

Publication of our observations is so much a part of who we are and what we do, I would like to mention some of them.

The Mid-Winter Bird Counts taken by members since the beginning have been included in *The Kentucky Warbler*.

The Seasonal Reports were added to *The Kentucky Warbler* since May 1978, compiled by Anne L. Stamm until January 1995 and now compiled by Fred Busroe.

Ray Harm has graciously allowed us to use his art-work for covers for *The Kentucky Warbler* for many, many years.

Audubon's Kentucky Birds including the Ivory-billed Woodpecker by R. Haven Wiley.

Alexander Wilson Visits Louisville by Gordon Wilson

Birds of South-central Kentucky by Gordon Wilson

Trail's Flycatcher in Kentucky by Joseph Croft.

Kentucky Birds, a Finding Guide by R. W. Barbour, Clell T.

Peterson, Delbert Rust, H. E. Shadowen and A. L. Whitt, Jr. 1973

Birds of Kentucky by Robert Mengel, 1965

Birds of the Mammoth Cave National Park by Dr. Gordon Wilson.

1994 Survey of Kentucky Heronries by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. and Traci Wethington

Annotated Check List - Monroe, Stamm, and Palmer-Ball. We still have copies of this that you can purchase.

Kentucky Breeding Bird Atlas, 1996 by Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr.

Many of you have had noteworthy publications that should be in this list

We have had a birding hot-line for the last several years and now we can pick up the latest sightings through e-mail.

Our KOS Kentucky Bird Records Committee was established to give fair and expert consideration to the recording of unusual birds encountered in the state. This committee is to be commended for its excellent work..

We, as KOS members, are devoted to the preservation of bird habitat in our state, but our contribution is more in the way of identifying what is there, impor-

tant nesting and migratory stop-over territory, and leaving it to The Nature Conservancy, Kentucky Nature Preserves Commission, and such to purchase and preserve this land. However, we have consistently supported environmental causes by letters and contact with state and federal policymakers.

It's a healthy organization that looks to the present and the future with contemporary sightings and research, with ambitious, energetic and very knowledgeable birders. We are fortunate indeed to have all ages and levels of experience in KOS, but bound by a common desire to enhance the knowledge of birding throughout Kentucky. The fun that we have birding together is a joyous byproduct of belonging.

KOS has always had an excellent mix of professional ornithologists and amateurs. The field trips at the meetings and otherwise are a great opportunity to hone our birding skills. The trained eyes of us all throughout the state make for invaluable observations of the bird life and movements in Kentucky.

We celebrate this great organization, its members and its contributions throughout our history, on this our 75th birthday.

PRESIDENTS OF K.O.S., 1923-1998

L. Otley Pindar 1923-25
Gordon Wilson 1925-29
T. Atchison Frazer 1930-33
Brasher C. Bacon 1934-38
Burt L. Monroe, Sr. 1939
Evelyn J. Schneider 1940-41
Harvey B. Lovell 1942-44
Victor K. Dodge 1945
Gordon Wilson 1946-47
Mabel Slack 1948
Mary Lou Frei 1949
Leonard C Brecher 1950-51
Virginia Smith 1952-53
Roger W. Barbour 1954
Ann L. Stamm 1955-57
Hunter M. Hancock 1958-59
James W. Hancock 1960
W. P. Rhoads 1961
Al H. Mayfield 1962

Clell T. Peterson 1963
Howard Jones 1965-66
Herbert Shadowen 1967-68
Willard Gray 1969-70
Ray Nall 1971-72
Burt L. Monroe, Jr. 1973-75
A. L. Whitt, Jr. 1976-77
Andrew Uterhart 1978-79
Ramon Iles 1980-81
PierreAllaire 1982-84
Blaine Ferrell 1985
Fred Busroe 1986-87
Jim Williams 1988-89
Virginia Kingsolver 1990-91
Lee McNeely 1992-93
Herbert Clay, Jr. 1994-95
Wayne M. Mason 1996-97
Wendell Kingsolver 1998-99

KOS Meeting Locations

| | | | |
|-------|---|------|--------------------------------|
| Spnng | 69 - Bowling Geen | Fall | 69 - Owensboro |
| | 70 - Pine Mountain St. Park | | 70 - Cumberland Falls St. Park |
| | 71 - Mammoth Cave | | 71 - Ky. Dam Village St. Park |
| | 72 - Bowling Green | | 72 - Lake Cumberland St. Park |
| | 73 - Louisville - 50 th annual Locust Grove | | 73 - LBL |
| | 74 - Bowling Green | | 74 - Cumberland Falls St. Park |
| | 75 - Bowling Green | | 75 - Ky. Dam Village St. Padc |
| | 76 - Mammoth Cave | | 76 - Carter Caves St. Park |
| | 77 - Mammoth Cave | | 77 - Rough River St. Park |
| | 78 - Mammoth Cave | | 78 - Danville, Ky. |
| | 79 - Mammoth Cave | | 79 - Owensboro |
| | 80 - Bowling Green | | 80 - Natural Bridge St. Park |
| | 81 - Barren River St. Park | | 81 - Kenlake St. Park |
| | 82 - Rough River St. Park | | 82 - Cumberland Falls St. Park |
| | 83 - Barren River St. Park | | 83 - Ky Dam Village St. Park |
| | 84 - Berea | | 84 - Morehead |
| | 85 - Mammoth Cave | | 85 - Pine Mountain St. Park |
| | 86 - Rough River St. Park | | 86 - Kenlake St. Park |
| | 87 - Cumberland Falls St. Park 8 | | 87 - Natural Bridge St. Park |
| | 88 - Otter Creek Park | | 88 - Ky. Dam Village St. Park |
| | 89 - Barren River St. Park | | 89 - Cumberland Falls St. Park |
| | 90 - Rough River St. Park | | 90 - Kenlake St. Park |
| | 91 - Carter Caves St. Park | | 91 - Pine Mountain St.. Park |
| | 92 - Owensboro | | 92 - Ky. Dam Village St. Park |
| | 93 - Barren River St. Park | | 93 - Cumberland Falls St. Park |
| | 94 - Rough River St. Park | | 94 - Pennyrile St. Park |
| | 95 - Mammoth Cave | | 95 - Greenbo St. Park |
| | 96 - Lake Malone | | 96 - Kenlake St. Park |
| | 97 - Barren River St. Park | | 97 - Pine Mountain St Park |
| | 98 - General Butler St. Park | | 98 - Ky. Dam Village St. Park |

Group picture of K.O.S. members prior to Saturday field trips



Photograph by Wendell Thompson

FIELD NOTES

New Nesting Records of Least Bittern

Very little has been published concerning the nesting of Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*) in Kentucky. In fact, documented breeding records have been recorded for only five counties: Carroll, Daviess, Hopkins, Jefferson, and Nelson (*Kentucky Breeding Bird Atlas* 1996). Detailed in the following narrative are recently acquired breeding records for three additional counties:

Henderson County - 1996

On more than a dozen occasions in the past ten years I have seen Least Bitterns on the Sauerheber Unit of Sloughs Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in western Henderson County. A few of these observations have occurred in late spring and summer when the species has been suspected of nesting, but more substantial evidence of breeding has not been obtained. On 1 June 1996, I found at least two Least Bitterns on a part of the Sauerheber Unit referred to as "Hardy Slough." but

I detected no evidence of nesting. However, on 5 July 1996, Richard Healy and I were birding at Hardy Slough, and in addition to 6-8 adult bitterns, we found a used nest, a nest containing eggs, and a recently fledged young. The first nest was found in bulrushes (*Scirpus validus*) among a sparse growth of cattails (*Typha latifolia*) about 1.0-1.5 feet above shallow water near one of the levees that impound water into subunits. It was a bulky, somewhat circular platform with a shallow, saucer-like depression on the top. The nest was about 8-10 inches in diameter and constructed of dead stems and leaves of herbaceous aquatic plants that were woven into the living vegetation. In the vicinity of this nest we encountered a downy young bittern with emerging pin feathers. The chick was on the ground among the vegetation, and assumed an imposing defensive posture when approached. Within two hundred yards of the first nest, a second one containing four pale blue eggs was located in a thick patch of burreed (*Sparganium americanum*). This nest was similar in form to the other and situated approximately 1.5 feet above the water. On a return visit to the area on 18 July 1996, it was empty and appeared disturbed, so I cannot be sure if the clutch of four eggs was complete. The number of adult birds in this area indicated that a loose breeding colony had been established there.

This represents the first confirmed breeding of Least Bitterns in Henderson County. Much suitable wetland nesting habitat has been lost to conversion for agricultural use and settlement. However, the relatively recent advent of "moist soils management" as a technique for attracting waterfowl holds great promise for restoring an abundance of breeding habitat for several species of marsh birds that are considered rare in the state. Moist soils techniques typically involve the impoundment of agricultural fields with small levees, forming shallow water areas that dry up seasonally to allow herbaceous aquatic and semi-aquatic plants to flourish. These areas are typically flooded in the fall for waterfowl use. The Hardy Slough site has been the location of a number of interesting marsh bird observations since it was expanded about five years ago. In 1996, the area also supported a nesting pair of King Rails (*Rallus elegans*) (D. Chaffin, pers. comm.).

Fulton County -- 1998

On 17 June 1998, Deborah White, Nick Drozda and myself made a visit to Fish Pond, in western Fulton County. During our visit we encountered at least five adult Least Bitterns in an area of mixed herbaceous aquatic plants on the north-western margin of the wetland. This area is tilled in dry years, but was too wet to farm in 1997, and it was covered by a foot of water at the time of our visit in 1998. Four bittern nests were located in this area (two empty nests, one with two eggs, and one with four -- bird flushed from the last). Nests were 1-3 feet above the water and situated in patches of cattails (3) and bulrushes (1). All were constructed in typical saddle-like fashion from surrounding dead and living vegetation. This site was not revisited, but the water level remained high enough that nesting was likely successful. In addition to the bitterns, a calling Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus*

podiceps) was observed, along with an as-yet uncompleted nest. This represents the first confirmed nesting of Least Bitterns in Fulton County and the first of Pied-billed Grebe in Fulton County since the early 1900s.

Muhlenberg County - 1998

In 1996, Dr. David Westneat, a University of Kentucky faculty member, notified me of nesting Least Bitterns on a cattail-dominated marsh on the Sinclair WMA near Drakesboro, where he was conducting research on Red-winged Blackbirds (*Agelaius phoeniceus*). On 31 May 1998, Mark Bennett, David Roemer, and I explored a portion of this marsh by canoe and noted several Least Bitterns and a nest containing five eggs. The nest was situated about 1.5 feet above the water in a patch of cattails and was similar in construction to the Henderson County nest described above. We also observed at least one Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) and several American Coots (*Fulica americana*) on the marsh although neither nests nor young could be located. I returned to this site on 18 June 1998 and observed or heard young bitterns calling in the marsh at several places, and the nest then contained four downy young. Mark Bennett and I returned to visit this site by canoe on 23 August 1998 and again observed or heard young in several spots in the marsh. We also observed two Common Moorhens that had dull soft part colors (bills and legs). These birds were likely young raised in the marsh during the summer of 1998 that had already completed a post-juvenile molt, as adults would usually still have had bright red bills and yellowish legs at that time (B. Peterjohn, pers. comm.). This represents the first confirmed nesting record of Least Bitterns in Muhlenberg County, and probably the second of Common Moorhen (on 31 August 1995, three young were observed with an adult on another pond near the Paradise Steam Plant; W. James, Tennessee Valley Authority, pers. comm.).

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

Tufted Duck in Warren County

While birding on a field trip to the transient lakes in southern Warren County on 5 April 1997, we found a male Tufted Duck (*Aythya fuligula*) on a small pond near the junction of KY 240 and Meng Road, about a mile east of Woodburn. The bird was in the company of about 30 Lesser Scaup (*A. affinis*). All characteristics were consistent with a mature male: black rear end, chest and back, white sides,

and a dark head that showed a purplish sheen under some lighting conditions. The crown feathers were elongated into a shaggy crest that hung behind the head. The bill was long and gray, with a black tip and whitish subterminal band. Head shape was very rounded, and the bird typically appeared to be slightly larger than nearby male Lesser Scaup. In flight, the bird's belly was whitish, and the wing pattern was similar to a scaup, with a bold white stripe extending through the secondaries and a grayish stripe through the primaries.

The day was cloudy and very windy, but excellent views were obtained of the bird from our cars. Palmer-Ball obtained photographs which show the black back, bill pattern and long tuft on the rear of the crown. On the following day, Frank Fekel, a Tennessee birder, obtained better photographs, which clearly show all field marks. Copies of these have been deposited with Lee McNeely, Secretary of the Kentucky Bird Records Committee. The Tufted Duck remained on these small ponds for a couple of days, but when they began to dry up it showed up on nearby McElroy Lake, where it was observed off-and-on through 15 April 1997.

This is the first documented record of Tufted Duck in Kentucky. The species is a regularly occurring vagrant on both coasts of North America, and there are inland reports on an annual basis. Tufted Duck sightings are always assessed for the possibility of being birds escaped from captivity; however, the potential for unnatural origin of this individual is limited by the unworn appearance of the bird's plumage, its occurrence during a normal migratory period, and its association with other *Aythya* ducks. Also, hybrid individuals of Tufted Duck x Lesser Scaup have been reported from various locations, but the all-black back and long crown tuft of this individual would eliminate this possibility. -- MICHAEL AUTIN, 6804 Cove Ct. Louisville, 40291, ROSEANNA DENTON, P.O. Box 222, Science Hill, 42553, JACKIE and DIANE ELMORE, 140 Crockett Lane, Bowling Green, 42101, GILBERT FOSTER, 6600 Hwy 100, Nashville, Tennessee, 37205, RICHARD HEALY, JR., 112 Deborah St, Radcliff, 40110, GAY HODGES, 336 Water's Edge Rd. Somerset, 42501, CELIA LAWRENCE, 8618 Lakeridge Dr. Louisville, 40272, and BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR., 8207 Old Westport Road, Louisville, 40222.

Northern Shovelers Nesting in Christian County

The spring of 1997 was extraordinarily wet across most of western Kentucky, and the development of "transient" or "karst" lakes and ponds in the western Highland Rim was extensive. Probably the most significant cluster of transient lakes in this region is located north of the Fort Campbell Military Reservation in southern Christian County. Since first observing these ponds in 1991, I have referred to them collectively as "Morgan's Pond", a local name apparently applied to a body of water that used to be present along KY 117 west of US 41, but which now apparently does not hold water permanently. In 1997, these ponds were very extensive and supported a diverse assemblage of migrant waterbirds similar to the lakes near Woodburn in Warren County. During the spring waterfowl migration,

Northern Shovelers (*Anas clypeata*) were common at transient lakes throughout the region including Morgan's Pond. On 8 May 1997, Jackie Elmore and I observed two males sleeping on a small pond north of KY 117, about 0.2 mile west of US 41. As much as any other dabbling duck, Northern Shovelers seem to be observed in pairs in spring, and those males that are unpaired are frequently observed in pursuit of females, sometimes in groups with other males. For this reason, it seemed odd that two males would be loafing in such a manner, and I remarked that it seemed possible that the birds might be nesting. In nesting species like Mallards (*Anas platyrhynchos*) and Blue-winged Teal (*Anas discors*), the late spring/early summer observation of lone or groups of unpaired males resting contently during the day is often an indication that females are nearby on nests.

On 5 June 1997, I returned to Morgan's Pond in search of lingering waterfowl and shorebirds, and I found a female Northern Shoveler with a brood of nine relatively small young on a larger body of water just NE of where the two males had been observed in early May. The young were conspicuous due to their relatively large, orangish-and-dark bills, and mottled, orangish-brown and dark brown plumage. Nearby young Mallards and Blue-winged Teal were more yellowish-tan in overall ground color, and their bill pattern was more extensively dark. I returned to the area on 18 June and found six young still in the company of the female, as well as a second brood of 12 larger young on a nearby pond on the south side of KY 117. The brood of six young was again observed on 25 June, at which time they were approaching the size of the female. The two largest bodies of water at Morgan's Pond remained into mid-July, so one must assume that these young fledged successfully.

This represents the first documented breeding record for Northern Shovelers in Kentucky, but the observation confirms in my mind that the species actually bred at or near McElroy Lake, Warren County, in 1989. That year small numbers lingered at the transient lakes in Warren County into late May, and two males were observed at McElroy Lake on 6 June (Palmer-Ball and Boggs 1991). Subsequently, a closely-associated group of four birds in female/immature plumage was observed at McElroy Lake on 17 July, at least a month before fall migrants should have arrived.

In the absence of further evidence of nesting, this observation was not considered conclusive, but it certainly must have represented a successful breeding attempt.

Northern Shovelers typically nest to the north of Kentucky, but in the western Great Plains region they nest at a latitude similar to that of Kentucky (Dubowy 1996). In the midwestern states, nestings are essentially unknown south of the Great Lakes (Bohlen 1989; Dubowy 1996; Keller et al. 1986; Peterjohn and Rice 1991; K. Brock, pers. comm.). Likewise, there are a few summer records for Tennes-

see (Robinson 1990), but none for nesting. Blue-winged Teal seem to nest predictably in Kentucky only when wet spring weather causes transient lakes in the Highland Rim region of southcentral and southwestern Kentucky to persist into the nesting season. Like the teal, it appears that shovelers also nest opportunistically under those circumstances, albeit more rarely. If this is true, it would seem that careful future study will result in additional nesting records. It should be noted that these observations serve as yet another indication of the uniqueness of the region's remarkable transient lakes.

LITERATURE CITED

- Bohlen, H.D. 1989. The birds of Illinois. Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Indiana.
- Dubowy, P.J. 1996. Northern shoveler (*Anas clypeata*). In The birds of North America, No. 217 (A. Poole and F. Gill, eds.) The Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and The American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, D.C.
- Keller, C.E., S.A. Keller, and T.C. Keller. 1986. Indiana birds and their haunts. 2nd edition. Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Indiana.
- Palmer-Ball, B., Jr. and G. Boggs. 1991. Return of the Woodburn lakes, 1989: Parts I and II. The Kentucky Warbler 67:33-45, 60-66.
- Peterjohn, B.G. and D.L. Rice. 1991. The Ohio breeding bird atlas. Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Natural Areas and Preserves, Columbus, Ohio.
- Robinson, J.C. 1990. An annotated checklist of the birds of Tennessee. University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville, Tennessee.
- BRAINARD PALMER-BALL, JR., Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, 801 Schenkel Lane, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601.

Nesting Activity of the Blue-headed Vireo in Wolfe County, Kentucky

The Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*) is presumed to be uncommon and locally distributed in Kentucky (Palmer-Ball 1996). This species was recorded nesting in the Black Mountain region in 1951 and 1952 (Mengel 1965), on Cumberland Mountain in 1970 (Croft 1971), and on Pine Mountain in 1972 (Palmer-Ball 1996). Nesting records show that in Kentucky, the Blue-headed Vireo nests at 549 to 975 m in elevation. The possibility that this species is expanding its range in Kentucky was postulated by Lacki and Baker (1998), in that a male Blue-headed Vireo was heard singing during breeding bird surveys in Robinson Forest, Breathitt County.

During the summer of 1997, an active nest of a Blue-headed Vireo was located in the Red River Gorge National Geological Area (RRG) in Wolfe County, Kentucky. Further, a second but inactive nest was found nearby. This second nest appeared to be the remains of nesting activity that occurred in 1996. Subsequently, a more concerted effort was made in 1998 to monitor the nesting activity of this species in RRG.

On May 18, 1998, a pair of Blue-headed Vireos was observed low in the canopy near a small thicket of rhododendron (*Rhododendron maximum*) in RRG, approximately 6 km north of Pine Ridge, Kentucky. After observing the activity of the female for several minutes, the nest was located 5 m above ground in the highest branch of the tallest rhododendron in the thicket. The branch was bent into a horizontal position, with the nest hung in the last fork of the branch near the tip. The female was observed sitting on the nest, which looked to be completed, for an interval of 15 minutes. By use of a mirror attached to a long pole, four eggs were observed in the nest later that day.

The nest was revisited on May 22. The nest was intact, but no nest activity was observed. A reinspection of the nest contents showed the nest to be empty. A second, newly constructed nest was found the same day approximately 30 m west of the first nest in another rhododendron thicket. Although this second nest was identical in construction to the first, we observed no activity by the female in the vicinity of this nest. Regardless, the male continued to sing and defend the territory around the nest; it is not uncommon for vireo (*Vireo spp.*) males to construct multiple nests and have only one nest used (Ehrlich *et al.* 1988).

Later in the season, on June 19, a third nest was located within the same vicinity. We postulate that this represented a renesting attempt by the same pair, as the nest was only 25 m from the original active nest and 20 m from the inactive second nest. This third nest was situated 5 m above ground in an American holly (*Ilex opaca*). An inspection of nest contents showed four eggs present. On return visits on June 20, 24, and 30, the female was recorded incubating the same four eggs. On July 2, three young and an unhatched egg were observed. By July 9, no activity of adults or fledglings was observed at the nest, and there were no nest contents.

It takes approximately 14 days for young vireos to fledge from the time of hatching (Ehrlich *et al.* 1988). Because the length of time from the last known date of incubation to the date when inactivity was observed equaled only 9 days, we hypothesize that this second nesting attempt was a failure with the young likely succumbing to predation.

These nests were located in forest comprised of a mix of coniferous and deciduous species. Dominant tree species were chestnut oak (*Quercus pinus*), white oak (*Q. alba*), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), eastern white pine (*Pinus strobes*), and Virginia pine (*P. virginiana*). A dense understory of rhododendron was present. The nests were located in the bottom of an ephemeral drainage, with the first nest within 4 m of the stream and the third nest 16 m from the same stream. The elevation of the site was estimated at 335 m, much less than previously recorded for this species in Kentucky (Palmer-Ball 1996).

These data indicate three years of nesting activity by Blue-headed Vireos in Wolfe County, Kentucky. Although no successful nesting attempt was confirmed for this species, our observations along with a record of singing activity of male Blue-headed Vireos in another section of the Cumberland Plateau (Lacki and Baker 1998), suggest that this species is extending its breeding range northward in Kentucky.

Funding for this study was provided by the E. O. Robinson Trust and the Department of Forestry, University of Kentucky. This investigation (KAES # 98-09-164) is connected with a project of the Kentucky Agricultural Experiment Station and is published with the approval of the Director.

LITERATURE CITED

- Croft, J. E. 1971. Notes from Cumberland Mountain. *Kentucky Warbler* 47:23-25.
- Ehrlich, P. R. D. S. Dobkin, and D. Wheye. 1988.
- The birder's handbook*. Simon and Schuster Inc., New York, NY. Lacki, M. J., and M. D. Baker. 1998.
- Observations of forest-interior bird communities in older growth forests in eastern Kentucky. *Transaction of the Kentucky Academy of Science* (in press). Mengel, R. M. 1965.
- The birds of Kentucky*. American Ornithologists' Union Monographs, No. 3, Allen Press, Lawrence, KS. Palmer-Ball, Jr., B. 1996.
- The Kentucky Breeding Bird Atlas*. University Press of Kentucky, Lexington, KY.
- HENRY F. YACEK, JR., MICHAEL J. LACKI, Department of Forestry, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546-0073.

The Woodburn Lakes -- 1998

The transient lakes near Woodburn in Warren County provided outstanding birding during the 1998 season with 73 waterbird species being recorded. Although the lakes did not form until mid-April, resulting in a lowered number of waterfowl species (16 compared with 26 in 1997), they persisted through mid-summer providing habitat for a good number of fall migrant shorebirds resulting in 28 species for the season (compared with 25 in 1997). Some rainfall in February and March allowed Walton's Pond and a few puddles at McElroy to form briefly, accounting for records of observation early in the season.

On 16 April, a severe weather system produced a tornado, softball-sized hail and 5+ inches of rain at Bowling Green. The lakes began filling on the 18th with the first shorebirds appearing then. By 27 April, 16 species had been recorded including Willet, Wilson's Phalarope, Western Sandpiper and both Dowitchers. Above average precipitation through the first week of May resulted in peak water levels, with McElroy covering 200-250 acres and Chaney approximately 150. On 16 May, 15 species of shorebirds were present, which represented the highest single day count. McElroy began falling slowly by the second week of May, but rainfall during the first three weeks of June helped to maintain water levels. On 23 June, McElroy had again risen to a level approaching its peak for the season. The water level at Chaney remained somewhat constant during this period. Lack of precipitation after the middle of June resulted in McElroy drying up by 23 July and Chaney by 25 August.

Falling water levels at Chaney produced excellent habitat for waders late in the season. Present on 17 August were at least 70 Great Egrets, 10 Little Blue Herons, several Black-crowned and Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, 20+ Great Blue Herons and several Green Herons. Interestingly, immature Yellow-crowned Night-Herons were present in good numbers at Chaney with a high of 17 on 29 July, but no adults were observed during the period.

The most significant records of observation for 1998 include a Little Gull, which was a first for the state. This bird, in first year plumage, remained at McElroy for 9 days, to the delight of birders. Present again this year were both Laughing and Franklin's Gulls. An American White Pelican was present for one day as was an adult Glossy Ibis. An immature White Ibis was seen circling McElroy on the afternoon of 12 July, but left in a westerly direction flying toward Chaney. An immature White Ibis, (probably the same bird), was discovered at Chaney on 22 July and remained until 7 August.

Two Eared Grebes in breeding plumage were observed presenting twigs or grass picked from the lake bottom to each other on 6 May. A female Red-necked Phalarope was present on the same day. The only spring observation of Baird's Sandpiper was of a single bird on 1 May, substantiating the rarity of this species at this season. An extraordinary flock of 17 Whimbrel put in a one day appearance on 19 May. A very early pair of Sandhill Cranes was present for three days beginning 30 August in a corn stubble field adjacent to Petros Pond.

Although the total number of individual birds present on any single day probably did not approach the levels of 1997, there were impressive numbers of several species recorded in 1998. On 23 May, Diane Elmore patiently counted an incredible 539 Dunlin at McElroy. Other high counts include Killdeer (well over 1000 and probably 2000), Semipalmated Plover (500), White-rumped Sandpiper (200+) and Black-bellied Plover (51). The best flight of Sanderlings ever recorded in Kentucky in spring occurred in 1998 with as many as 21 present at McElroy on 27 May.

The relatively late occurrence of the lakes in 1998 probably accounted for a lower number of breeding birds. Noteworthy records however did include one brood of Blue-winged Teal at McElroy and Pied-billed Grebes at Chaney. Wood Ducks and Hooded Mergansers appeared to have bred in the area with young present at McElroy on several dates. Many broods of Mallards were present.

The Woodburn area also produced a number of interesting records of non-waterbird species. Lark Sparrows nested in a field near Vance Road with three young observed on 17 July. Single Yellow-headed Blackbirds were seen at McElroy and Walton's Pond. Merlins were present on two dates at McElroy and a Bewick's Wren was seen in the woodlot on the east side of the lake for three days.

Waterbird species reported during 1998 are summarized in the following table. Bodies of water included are McElroy, Chaney (CH), Walton's Pond (WP), along Highway 240 and Petros Pond along US 68/80 west of Woodburn.

Others who submitted records are: Jackie Elmore, Diane Elmore, Lester Doyle, Mark Bennett, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., David Chaffin and Tom Durbin. -- DAVID ROEMER, 294 Drakes Creek, Drive, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42103.

| Species | Early Spring | Late Spring | Early Fall | Comments |
|---------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|--------------------|
| Amer. White Pelican | -- | -- | 7-11 | -- |
| Common Loon | 5-12 | 6-5 | -- | |
| Pied-billed Grebe | -- | -- | -- | bred at CH |
| Horned Grebe | 5-6 | -- | -- | |
| Eared Grebe | 5-6 | -- | -- | 2 breeding plumage |
| DbI-cr. Cormorant | -- | 6-30 | -- | |
| Great Blue Heron | -- | -- | -- | 30+ CH 8-19 |
| Great Egret | 4-27 | -- | 6-26 | 82 CH 8-25 |
| Little Blue Heron | -- | -- | 7-5 | 20+ WP 7-20 (Im) |
| Cattle Egret | 4-26 | 5-22 | 7-18 | |
| Green Heron | -- | -- | -- | |
| Bl-cr. Night-Heron | -- | -- | 7-3 | 12 CH 8-5 |

| Species | Early Spring | Late Spring | Early Fall | Comments |
|------------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Yel-cr. Night-Heron | -- | -- | 7-12 | 17 CH 7-29 (Im) |
| White Ibis | -- | -- | 7-12 | thru 8-7 (Im) |
| Glossy Ibis | 5-17 | -- | -- | adult |
| Snow Goose | -- | 5-22 | -- | |
| Canada Goose | -- | -- | -- | |
| Wood Duck | -- | -- | -- | |
| Green-winged Teal | -- | -- | -- | |
| Mallard | -- | -- | -- | 15 broods on 6-3 |
| Pintail | 2-21 | -- | -- | WP |
| Blue-winged Teal | -- | -- | -- | brood of 8 7-17 |
| Northern Shoveler | 5-3 | 6-14 | 7-20 | male in eclipse |
| Gadwall | 5-3 | 5-18 | -- | |
| Amer. Wigeon | 5-11 | -- | -- | |
| Ring-necked Duck | 5-18 | 7-29 | -- | |
| Greater Scaup | 4-27 | -- | -- | adult male |
| Lesser Scaup | 5-3 | 6-3 | -- | |
| Hooded Merganser | 5-9 | -- | -- | young thru period |
| Red-breasted Merganser | 5-3 | 5-19 | -- | |
| Ruddy Duck | 5-3 | 6-14 | -- | |
| Sora | 4-27 | -- | -- | CH |
| Amer. Coot | -- | -- | -- | thru period |
| Sandhill Crane | -- | -- | 8-30 | Petros pond |
| Black-bellied Plover | 5-6 | 6-14 | 7-23 | 51 5-17 |
| Amer. Golden Plover | 4-23 | -- | 8-22 | |
| Semipalmated Plover | 4-21 | 6-23 | 7-17 | 500 5-21 |
| Killdeer | -- | -- | -- | 1000+ 7-23 |
| Greater Yellowlegs | 4-19 | 6-8 | 6-30 | |
| Lesser Yellowlegs | 3-9 | 6-6 | 6-20 | |
| Solitary Sandpiper | 4-19 | -- | -- | |
| Willet | 4-27 | 5-9 | 7-8 | |
| Spotted Sandpiper | 4-22 | 6-15 | 7-8 | |
| Upland Sandpiper | -- | -- | 8-7 | |
| Whimbrel | 5-19 | -- | -- | 17 |
| Ruddy Turnstone | 5-4 | 6-6 | 8-4 | 16 5-22 |
| Sanderling | 5-16 | 6-5 | 7-20 | 21 5-27 |
| Semipalm. Sandpiper | 4-30 | 6-15 | 7-2 | 500 5-21 |
| Western Sandpiper | 4-23 | 5-4 | 7-14 | 6 4-23 |
| Least Sandpiper | 4-23 | 5-27 | 6-29 | |
| White-rumped Sandpiper | 4-23 | 6-14 | -- | 200+ 5-22 1 to 7-20 |

| Species | Early Spring | Late Spring | Early Fall | Comments | |
|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------|-----------|------------|
| Baird's Sandpiper | 5-1 | -- | 8-20 | | |
| Pectoral Sandpiper | 4-23 | 6-14 | 7-3 | 200 | 7-23 |
| Dunlin | 5-7 | 6-8 | -- | 539 | 5-23 |
| Stilt Sandpiper | 5-15 | 5-30 | 7-8 | | |
| Buff-breasted Sandpiper | -- | -- | 7-24 | | |
| Sh.-billed Dowitcher | 4-24 | 5-27 | 6-30 | 45 | 5-16 |
| Lg.-billed Dowitcher | 4-27 | 5-7 | -- | | |
| Common Snipe | -- | -- | 7-20 | | |
| Amer. Woodcock | -- | -- | -- | CH | |
| Wilson's Phalarope | 4-23 | 5-13 | 8-10 | 3 | 4-26 |
| Red-necked Phalarope | 5-6 | -- | -- | female | |
| Laughing Gull | 4-25 | -- | -- | adult | |
| Franklin's Gull | 6-5 | -- | 7-11 | thru 7-20 | |
| Bonaparte's Gull | 4-25 | -- | -- | | |
| Ring-billed Gull | 4-27 | 6-3 | -- | | |
| Herring Gull | 4-27 | 5-7 | -- | | |
| Caspian Tern | 5-10 | 5-15 | 7-12 | | |
| Common Tern | 5-10 | 5-22 | -- | | |
| Forster's Tern | 4-28 | -- | -- | | |
| Least Tern | 6-12 | -- | -- | | |
| Black Tern | 5-1 | 6-15 | 7-23 | 61 | 6-5 |
| Little Gull | 6-9 | 6-17 | -- | | |
| Osprey | 5-19 | -- | -- | | |
| Bald Eagle | 5-3 | 5-22 | -- | Im | |
| Peregrine Falcon | 4-30 | 5-7 | -- | also 5-3 | |
| Merlin | 4-26 | 5-9 | -- | | |
| Amer. Pipit | -- | 5-18 | -- | | |
| Brewer's Blackbird | 2-21 | 3-14 | -- | 10 | 3-14 |
| Yellow-headed Blackbird | 5-18 | 5-24 | -- | | |
| Lark Sparrow | 4-28 | -- | -- | bred | Vance Road |

North American Migration Count

The following is a brief summary of the spring North American Migration Counts held in Kentucky on May 9, 1998. A total of 164 species were recorded by all groups. Results have been forwarded to be included with all counts nationwide on May 9.

| | Total Species | Observers | | Total Species | Observers |
|---|------------------|-----------|------------------|------------------|-----------|
| Boone County | 139 | 22 | Fayette County | 114 | 21 |
| Calloway County | 122 | 8 | Jefferson County | 128 | 14 |
| Daviess County | 88 | 16 | Ohio County | 94 | 1 |
| --LEE MCNEELY, P.O. Box 463, Burlington, KY 41005 | | | | | |

BOOK REVIEW**Wild Bird Guides: Northern Cardinal**

by Gary Ritchison

Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, PA, 1997;
122 pp., 148 color photographs, flexible cover, \$19.95.

If you want to know everything about Northern Cardinals, *Cardinalis cardinalis*, this is the book. It is easy to read and the text is broken often by beautiful color pictures of cardinals illustrative of the subject being covered in the narrative. The book begins with a history of the scientific name, taxonomy and distribution of Northern Cardinals. Given the authors deep interest in bird behavior, there are extensive sections on food, feeding habits, vocalizations, and behavior complete with a discussion of the function of song and behaviors. Facts of general relevance to other avian species are mentioned along with the information pertaining to cardinals. A substantial portion of the book is devoted to the breeding cycle; courtship, nesting, egg laying, incubation, parenting and fledging. The book concludes with the nonbreeding season and the relations of cardinals with humans. For anyone interested in Northern Cardinals, and especially their behavior, this book is a must. Enjoy.

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.

Kentucky Bird Records Committee

Rare bird sightings and birds observed out of season should be well documented and the documentation should be sent to Lee McNeely, Secretary of the KBRC (P.O. Box 463, Burlington, Kentucky 41005) for consideration by the committee for official state record status.

K.O.S. Website

Thanks to Gary Ritchison, the Kentucky Ornithological Society has a site on the world wide web: <http://www.biology.uku.edu/kos.htm>.