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The Kentucky Warbler

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THE KENTUCKY WARBLER

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

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THE COVER

We thank our staff artist, Ray Harm, for this excellent print of an American Robin, *Turdus migratorius*. The editor apologizes for the poor quality of this print on the cover of the last issue of *The Kentucky Warbler*. The quality was completely the fault of the editor, not United Graphics..

IN MEMORIAM: ANNE L. STAMM

Anne L. Stamm, "the 'First Lady' of birding in Kentucky", died July 23, 1999. It is very difficult to pay adequate tribute to a person who dedicated so much of her life to the growth and well-being of the Kentucky Ornithological Society and to monitoring and protecting the avifauna of Kentucky. Anne served as an enthusiastic role model for so many amateur birders, yet could keep up with the best professionals. So often we do not recognize the contributions of a person until it is too late to do so in person. The Kentucky Ornithological Society is fortunate to have expressed its high regard for Anne and all of her contributions during the Fall 1992 meeting. See the tribute to Anne L. Stamm by Donald Summerfield in *The Kentucky Warbler*, 69:31. Anne has been a symbol of everything good about K.O.S. and she will be sorely missed by its members. The Kentucky Ornithological Society expresses its sincere sympathies to family and friends.

IN MEMORIAM: LEE KERN NELSON

Lee Kern Nelson of Owensboro, a retired wildlife biologist from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, died Saturday, May 29, 1999. He was a member of Daviess County Audubon Society, the Sierra Club, the Nature Conservancy, the Wildlife Society and the Kentucky Ornithological Society among other wildlife organizations. He was active and held offices in all. Lee Nelson was dedicated to and contributed much toward the preservation of Kentucky wildlife. The Kentucky Ornithological Society expresses sympathy to his family and friends.

IN MEMORIAM: CHASTAIN L. FRAZER, SR.

Chastain L. Frazer, a longtime member of the Kentucky Ornithological Society, died on January 23, 1999. One of his favorite pastimes was the winter count, especially seeing the eagles at Weston Bluff. He made significant contributions to monitoring the avifauna during these winter counts and was concerned about the decline of Red-tailed Hawks near Lexington in later years. The Kentucky Ornithological Society expresses its sincere sympathies to Chastain's family and friends.

THE SPRING MIGRATION, 1999

Fred M. Busroe

Weather conditions during the Spring Season were mild temperatures and normal to slightly below normal precipitation.

A number of important observations occurred during this season. These include an addition to Kentucky's avifauna, multiple observations of the Eurasian Collared Dove at Owensboro and Hickman, the location of the first active nest in Kentucky of a Red-breasted Nuthatch in the Red River Gorge, and a Brown Pelican at Kentucky Dam.

Abbreviations - AJJ = A.J.Jolly Park, Campbell County; Bark = Barkley Dam, Livingston/Lyon counties.; BBG = Big Bone Creek, Boone County; Bel = Bellevue, Campbell County; BGP = Basel Griffin Park, Warren County; Blo = Blood River Embayment, Marshall County; Bre = Brent, Campbell County; Bur = Burlington, Boone County; Cal = Calloway County; Cam = Campbell County; Can = Caneyvill Reservoir, Grayson County; CEL = Camp Ernst Lake, Boone County; Cool = Cool Springs, Ohio County; Cre = Joe Creason Park, Jefferson County; CRL = Cave Run Lake, Rowan/Bath counties.; Falls = Falls of Ohio, Jefferson County; FtT = Ft. Thomas, Campbell County; Ful = Fulton County; Gray = Grayson County; Heb = Hebron, Boone County; Hib = Hickman Bottoms, Fulton County; Hic = Hickman, Fulton County; Hop = Hopkins County; Jef = Jefferson County; JMF = Jefferson County Memorial Forest; Jon = Jonathan Creek, Marshall County; Ky Dam = Kentucky Dam, Livingston/Marshall counties.; LBL = Land Between the Lakes, Lyon/Trigg counties.; LPew = Lake Pewee, Hopkins County; L#9 = Lake No.9, Fulton County; Log = Logan County; Lou = Louisville, Jefferson County; Mad = Madisonville, Hopkins County; McL = McElroy Lake, Warren County; Mel = Meldahl Dam, Bracken County; MCFH = Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County; Mur = Murray, Calloway County; New = Newport, Campbell County; Open = Open Pond, Fulton County; Owen = Owensboro, Daviess County; PBF = Palmer-Ball farm, Jefferson County; Pet = Petersburg, Boone County; PWMA = Peabody Wildlife Management Area, Muhlenberg County; RRG = Red River Gorge, Powell/Wolfe counties.; RRSP = Rough River State Resort Park, Grayson County; SC = Short Creek, Grayson County; Sil = Silver Grove, Campbell County; SWMA = Sloughs Wildlife Management Area, Henderson County; Sle = Sledd Creek, Kentucky Lake, Marshall County; Smi = Smithland Dam, Livingston County; WKUF = Western Kentucky University farm, Warren County.

Common Loon - 5 at Jon on March 28 (Hap, CP); 3 on April 10 at CRL (FB); 3 on April 27 at CEL (LMc); 1 on May 9 on Ohio River, Jef (DO).

Horned Grebe - 4 on March 24 at Mel and 14 on April 6 at Bre (FR); 1 on April 10 at CEL (LMc)

American White Pelican - 16 on April 1 at L#9 (CP).

BROWN PELICAN - 1 on May 30 at Ky. Dam (BD, RD).

Double-crested Cormorant - 1 on March 7 at PWMA (MH); 7 on April 10 at Mel, 200 on April 17 on Ohio River, BBC (LMc); 224 on April 15 at Falls (RD); approx. 500 on April 18 at LBL (C, Hap); 220 on April 23 at Falls (FR); 136 on April 24 at Falls (DO); 40 on April 25 at Mel (FR); 3 on May 18 at Falls (RD).

- Least Bittern** - 1 on May 30 at SWMA (MB).
- Great Blue Heron** - 150 on March 20 in Ful (Hap, RD); 50 on April 18 at LBL (C, Hap); 8, with some on nest, on Rough River, Gray (JP); 6 on May 13 at Falls (BPB); 7 on May 18 at Falls (FR).
- Great Egret** - 6 on March 17 in Ful (Hap, CP); 10 on March 20 in Ful (Hap, RD, CP); 60+ on April 11 in Ful (MB); 1 on April 25 at Sle (MM).
- Snowy Egret** - 1 on May 13 at Falls (BPB); 1 on May 18 at Falls (RD).
- Little Blue Heron** - 2 on April 11 in Ful (MB).
- Cattle Egret** - 20+ on April 15 at Sle (MM).
- Black-crowned Night-Heron** - 110 on April 23 at Falls (FR); 2 on April 24 at Falls (DO); 40 on May 6 at Falls (RD); 1 on May 13 at Falls (BPB).
- Snow Goose** - 7 on March 20 in Ful (Hap, RD, CP).
- Ross' Goose** - 1 on April 3 at BGP (FR).
- Wood Duck** - 30 on March 11 at Mel (FR); 30 on March 20 in Ful (Hap, RD); 10 on April 11 in Ful (MB).
- Gadwall** - 4 on March 20 at Heb (FR); 70 on March 20 in Ful (Hap, RD); 135 on April 11 in Ful (MB).
- American Wigeon** - 20 on March 11 at Mel (FR); 100 on March 20 in Ful (Hap, RD); 4 on April 11 in Ful (MB).
- American Black Duck** - 30+ on March 7 at SWMA (DO); 15 on March 11 at Mel (FR).
- Blue-winged Teal** - 6 on March 7 at PWMA (MH); 5 on March 17 at BGP (LD); 200 on March 20 in Ful (Hap, RD); 200 on April 11 in Ful (MB); 4 on Gray farm pond and 12 at Can on April 17 with 16 in Gray on April 24 (JP).
- Northern Shoveler** - Approx. 150 on March 20 in Ful (Hap, RD, CP); 12 on March 20 in Lewis County (FR); 4 on April 7 and 4 on April 20 at LPew (JWH); 30 on April 11 in Ful (MB).
- Northern Pintail** - 6 on March 7 at SWMA (DO); 20 on March 11 at Mel (FR); 1 on March 20 in Ful (Hap, RD).
- Green-winged Teal** - 60+ on March 7 at SWMA (DO); 6 on March 7 at PWMA (MH); 120+ on April 11 in Ful (MB).
- Canvasback** - 2 on March 5 and 1 on March 11 at Mel (FR).
- Redhead** - 4 on March 7 at PWMA (MH); 4 on March 11 at Mel and 2 on March 17 in Cam (FR); 100 on March 20 in Ful (Hap, RD).
- Ring-necked Duck** - 40 on March 7 at PWMA (MH); 18 on March 17 at BGP (LD); 35 in Cam and 130 at AJJ on March 17 (FR).
- Lesser Scaup** - 6 on March 7 at PWMA (MH); 15 on March 11 and 205 on March 24 at Mel, 10 on March 15 and 20 on March 17 at AJJ and 80 on April 6 at Bre-

- (FR); 254 on March 28 at Jon (Hap, CP); 20 on April 18 at LBL (C, Hap).
- White-winged Scoter** - 2 on March 5, 11 and 20 at Mel (FR); 1 on April 10 (a late spring date) at Mel (LMc).
- Hooded Merganser** - 2 on March 17 at McEl (LD); 20 on March 20 in Ful (Hap, RD); 33 on April 11 in Ful (MB).
- Common Merganser** - 8 on March 28 at Jon (Hap, CP); 28 on April 14 at Sle (MM).
- Red-breasted Merganser** - 8 on April 18 at LBL (C, Hap); 11 on April 11 and 5 on May 9 at Falls (DO); 9 on May 11 at Falls (RD).
- Ruddy Duck** - 10 on March 28 at Jon (Hap, CP); 39 on March 2 and 17 on April 17 at LPew (JWH).
- Osprey** - 4 on March 28 at Jon (Hap, CP); 1 on April 7 in Gray (JP); 1 on April 10 at Mel (LMc); 2 on April 17 at Can (JP); 7 on April 17 at MCFH (FB); 12 on April 18 at LBL (C, Hap); 1 on April 19 in Hart (MS); 2 from April 19-28 at Sle (MM); 2 on April 24 at Blo (Hap); 1 on April 25 in Log (MB).
- Bald Eagle** - 2 on March 6 at Blo (Hap); one on nest on March 7 at SWMA (DO); 1 immature on March 19 near Cool (RD); 2 on March 20 in Ful (Hap, RD).
- Northern Harrier** - 7 on March 7 at PWMA (MH); 1 at McEl and 10 in the Cool area on March 19 (RD); 2 on March 20 in Ful (Hap, RD); 1 female on March 20 at SWMA (BY).
- Sharp-shinned Hawk** - 1 on March 7 at Bel (FR); 1 on March 8 in Hart (MS).
- Cooper's Hawk** - 1 on May 7 in Hart (MS); an active nest on May 10 at Bur (LMc, LyM).
- Broad-winged Hawk** - 1 on April 11 in Trigg County (MB).
- Red-tailed Hawk** - 4 on March 7 at PWMA (MH); 15+ on March 19 in Cool area (RD).
- Rough-legged Hawk** - 4 on March 7 at PWMA (MH); 1 on March 7 at SWMA (DO); 1 on March 19 in Cool area (RD).
- American Coot** - 49 on March 2, 111 on March 18, 145 on April 7, 160 on April 14 and 72 on April 20 at LPew (JWH); 200 on April 6 at FtT (FR).
- Sandhill Crane** - 42 on March 5 in Hart (MS); 88 on March 10 at SC (MH).
- Black-bellied Plover** - 3 on May 3 at Falls (RD).
- American Golden-Plover** - 6 on March 17 at McEl (LD); 2 on April 11 in Ful (MB); 98 on April 20 near Open (CP); 2 on May 30 at Hib (MB).
- Semipalmated Plover** - 3 on May 9 at Falls (DO); 7 on May 18 at Falls (RD); as many as 29 between May 11-28 at MCFH (FB); 1 on May 30 at SWMA

(MB).

Killdeer - 50 on March 20 in Ful (Hap, RD).

American Avocet - 8 at Ky Dam (DR).

Black-necked Stilt - 3 at Open (DR).

Greater Yellowlegs - 60 on March 17 in Ful (CP, Hap); 10 on March 20 in Ful (Hap, RD, CP); 2 on March 20 at SWMA (BY); 1 on March 23 in Clinton County (DC); 3 on March 28 in Log (MB); 50+ on April 11 in Ful (MB); 2 on April 17-19 at MCFH (FB); 2 on April 24 at Gray farm pond (JP); 1 on May 8 in Jef (DO).

Lesser Yellowlegs - 25 on March 17 in Ful (CP, Hap); 100 on March 20 in Ful (Hap, RD); 6 on March 20 at SWMA (BY); 100 on March 20 in Ful (Hap, RD, CP); approx. 500 on April 11 in Ful (MB); 7 on April 16 at MCFH (FB); 3 on May 8 in Jef (DO).

Solitary Sandpiper - 1 on April 7 at LPew (JWH); 9 on April 11 in Hib (MB); 1 on April 18 at LBL (C, Hap).

Willet - 5 on May 12 at Ky. Dam (DR).

Spotted Sandpiper - 3 on April 25 in Log (MB); 15 on May 9 at Falls (DO); 10+ on May 13 at Falls (BPB); 10 on May 18 at Falls (RD).

Upland Sandpiper - 1 on April 8 at WKUF (DR).

Whimbrel - 1 on May 28 at Smi (JW).

Marbled Godwit - 1 on May 10 at Ky. Dam (DR).

Ruddy Turnstone - 1 in breeding plumage on May 22 at Smi (MB).

Sanderling - 1 on May 13 at Falls (BPB); 2 on May 18 at Falls (RD).

Semipalmated Sandpiper - 2 on May 7 in Cal (MM); 2 on May 9 at Falls (DO); 3 on May 13 at Falls (BPB); 12 on May 18 at Falls (RD); 27 on May 26 at MCFH (FB); 34 at SWMA and 27 at PWMA on May 30 (MB).

Least Sandpiper - 8 on May 9 at Falls (DO); 12-16 on May 24-27 at MCFH (FB).

White-rumped Sandpiper - 200 on May 10-11 at Hib (DR); 3 on May 19 at MCFH (FB); 20 on May 30 at SWMA (MB).

Baird's Sandpiper - 2 on May 19 at MCFH (FB).

Pectoral Sandpiper - 9 on March 17 at McEl (LD); 14 on March 19 at McEl (RD); 26 on March 20 in Ful (Hap, RD, CP); approx. 50 on March 20 at SWMA (BY); 48 on April 11 in Hib (MB); 2 on May 9 at Falls (DO).

Dunlin - 10 on May 19 at MCFH (FB); 25+ on May 22 at Smi (MB).

Stilt Sandpiper - 2 on May 30 at SWMA (MB).

Common Snipe - 16 on March 17 at McEl (LD); approx. 160 on March 20 in Ful (Hap, RD, CP); 1 on March 24 in western Cal (CM, KM); 2 on March 28 in Log (MB); 4 on April 11 in Ful (MB).

- American Woodcock** - 3 on March 17 in courtship flight at AJJ (FR).
- Wilson's Phalarope** - 1 on May 10 at Hickman Bottoms, Ful (DR).
- Laughing Gull** - 2 adults at Ky. Dam and 1 immature at Bark on May 20 (DR).
- Bonaparte's Gull** - 25 on March 6 at Jon (Hap); 10 on March 20 in Ful (Hap, RD); 38 on March 28 at Jon (Hap, Jon); 15 on March 30 at Mel (FR); 10 on April 10 at Mel (LMc); 7 on April 10 at Falls (DO); 15 on April 18 at LBL (C, Hap); 10 on April 28 at MCFH (FB).
- Herring Gull** - 6 on March 28 at Jon (Hap, CP).
- Caspian Tern** - 3 on April 11 and 2 on May 9 at Falls (DO); 2 on April 16 at MCFH (FB); 2 on April 18 at LBL (C, Hap); 1 on May 13 at Falls (BPB).
- Forster's Tern** - 1 on March 7 at Blo (Hap); 12 on March 28 at Jon (Hap, CP); 2 on April 4 at Sle (MM); 6 on April 18 at LBL (C, Hap); 2 on April 19 at New and 7 on April 25 at Mel (FR); 6 on April 24 at Blo (Hap).
- EURASIAN COLLARED DOVE** - 1 on May 27 in Owen (MT, WT); 6 on May 30 in Hic (KOS).
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo** - 2 on May 8 at JMF (DO); 1 on May 9 at SC (JP); 2 on May 12 near Mad (JWH).
- Great Horned Owl** - 1 on March 10 in Gray (JP).
- Barred Owl** - 1 on March 5 at Blo (Hap); 2 on April 5 in Hart (MS).
- Short-eared Owl** - 7 on March 10 at PWMA (MH); 3 on March 19 in Cool area (RD).
- Chuck-will's-widow** - 2 on April 29 in Hop (DH); 1 on May 8-9 at SC (JP).
- Whip-poor-will** - First heard in Allen County on April 6 (LD); 2 on May 11 at RRG (FR).
- Chimney Swift** - 2 on April 18 in Lou (DO); 2 on April 22 at SC (JP).
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird** - 1 on April 15 at feeder in Boyle County (NE, VE); 2 on April 23 in Lou (DO); 1 on April 24 at Blo (Hap).
- Acadian Flycatcher** - 1 on May 27 on Ky. Rt. 715, RRG (FR).
- Eastern Wood-Pewee** - 14 on May 8 at JMF (DO).
- Willow Flycatcher** - 1 on May 8 at Pet (LMc); 1 on May 11 and May 18 at MCFH (FB); 2 on May 16 at PWMA and 1 on May 30 at SWMA (MB).
- Least Flycatcher** - 1 on May 8 at JMF (DO).
- Great Crested Flycatcher** - 4 on May 8 at RRSP (JP).
- Loggerhead Shrike** - 2 on May 13 and May 30 at same location in Gray (JP).
- White-eyed Vireo** - First heard in Hop on April 23 (JWH); 2 on April 24 at JMF (DO).
- Bell's Vireo** - 5-6 on May 16 at PWMA (MB).
- Blue-headed Vireo** - 1 on April 21 at Bern and 2 on April 28 at Bel (FR); 5 on May 4, 3 on May 11 and a pair of adults feeding fledglings on May 11 RRG (FR).
- Warbling Vireo** - 4 on April 11 in Ful (MB); 1 on April 14 and 3 on May 2 at RRSP (JP); 4 on April 23 at LPew (JWH); 2 on April 23 at Mel (FR); 2 on May 8 in Lou (DO).

- Fish Crow** - 1 on March 20 in Ful (Hap, RD, CP); 1 on March 28 at Jon (Hap, CP); 3 on April 11 in Hib (MB); 6 on April 5 and 3 on April 21 at Sle (MM).
- Horned Lark** - 2 on March 7 at PWMA (MH); 1 on March 10-11 in Cam (FR); 20 on March 20 in Ful (Hap, RD); 15 on March 24 in Mur (CM, KM); 2 on April 18 at RRSP (JP).
- Purple Martin** - 5 in Gray on April 18 (JP).
- Tree Swallow** - 40 on March 20 in Ful (Hap, RD, CP); 17 on April 7 and 42 on April 14 at LPew (JWH); 200+ on April 17 at MCFH (FB); approx. 150 on April 17 at Can (JP); 25 on April 18 at LBL (C, Hap).
- Northern Rough-winged Swallow** - 25 on April 17 at Can (JP).
- Cliff Swallow** - 30 on April 18 at LBL (C, Hap); 12 on April 25 at Mel (FR); 3 on May 2 at RRSP (JP).
- Red-breasted Nuthatch** - 6 on May 4, then a pair entering a nest hole on May 5-6 (FR), 11 (BPB, DD, FR), 12, 25, 27 near Rock Bridge, RRG (FR). This is the first active Kentucky nest site, the 1996 nest was discovered after the young had fledged.
- House Wren** - 3 on May 8 at RRSP (JP).
- Winter Wren** - 1 on April 19 in Log (MB).
- Marsh Wren** - 1 on March 20 at SWMA (BY).
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet** - 1 on April 25 in Lou (DO).
- Veery** - 2 on April 11 at LBL (MB); 1 on April 21 at Cre (DO); 1 on April 21 at Mel (FR).
- Gray-checked Thrush** - 1 on May 16 at PWMA (MB).
- Swainson's Thrush** - 1 on April 25 in Lou (DO); several observations between April 27 and May 2 in Hop (JWH).
- Brown Thrasher** - 1 on March 23 and 3 nestlings on May 10 at SC (JP).
- American Pipit** - 25+ on March 19 at McEl (RD); 5 on March 20 in Ful (Hap, RD, CP); 40 on March 24 in Mur (CM, KM).
- Cedar Waxwing** - Flocks of 12 to 50 in Gray during May (JP).
- Golden-winged Warbler** - 1 on May 8 at JMF (DO).
- Tennessee Warbler** - 1 on April 24 at JMF (DO).
- Nashville Warbler** - 1 on April 25 in Lou (DO); 1 on April 29 at Bern (FR).
- Northern Parula** - 8 on May 4 at RRG (FR); 1 in Hib and 3 at LBL on April 11 (MB).
- Yellow-rumped Warbler** - 3 on April 17 at Can (JP) 15 on April 18 at LBL (C, Hap); 10 on April 24 at Blo (Hap); 2 on May 2 at RRSP (JP).
- Black-throated Green Warbler** - 20 on May 4 and 5 on May 26 at RRG (FR).
- Chestnut-sided Warbler** - 1 on May 8 in Jef (DO).
- Magnolia Warbler** - 3 on May 8 in JMF (DO).

- Blackburnian Warbler** - 1 on April 21 at Bern (FR); 1 on May 8 in JMF (DO).
- Yellow-throated Warbler** - 1 on April 14 at SC (JP); 10 on May 4 and 20 on May 26 at RRG (FR).
- Pine Warbler** - 2 on March 20 in Lewis County and 3 on April 22 at Bern (FR); 2 on April 14 and 1 on April 18 at SC (JP); 2 on May 27 at RRG (FR).
- Prairie Warbler** - 1 on May 14 in Gray (JP); 4 on May 26 at RRG (FR).
- Palm Warbler** - 1 on April 11 at Hib (MB); 1 on April 17 at Can (JP); 9 on April 25 on PBF (DO); 1 on May 10 in Mad (JWH).
- Black-and-white Warbler** - 3 on April 23 at Bern and 15 on May 4 with 20 on May 26 at RRG (FR).
- Prothonotary Warbler** - 4 on April 11 in Hib (MB); 1 on April 20 at SC (JP); 4 on April 24 at Blo (Hap); 1 on April 26 at Sil (FR); 1 singing at a Hop pond from May 9-13 (JWH).
- Worm-eating Warbler** - 4 on April 21 at Bern and 3 on May 45 at RRG (FR).
- Swainson's Warbler** - 2 on May 4, 3 on May 5, 2 on May 11, and 1 on May 24-28 at RRG (FR); 1 on May 14 in northwest Gray (JP).
- Northern Waterthrush** - 1 on April 17 at Can (JP); 1 on April 22 at Bern (FR); 1 on April 25 in Log (MB).
- Louisiana Waterthrush** - 1 on April 22 at Bern (FR); 2 on April 24 at Blo (Hap); 1 on April 30 at SC (JP); 4 on May 4 at RRG (FR).
- Kentucky Warbler** - 3 on May 12 near Mad (JWH).
- Mourning Warbler** - 1 male on May 11 at MCFH (FB).
- Hooded Warbler** - 30 on May 4, 10 on May 26 and a nest with three eggs was located on May 27 at RRG (FR).
- Yellow-breasted Chat** - 3 on May 12 in Hop (JWH).
- Summer Tanager** - First spring observation in Hop on April 25 (JWH); 1 on May 14 in Gray (JP).
- Scarlet Tanager** - First spring observation in Hop on April 27 (JWH).
- American Tree Sparrow** - 2 on March 7 at SWMA (DO); 10 on March 10 at Sil and 20 on March 11 at Mel (FR).
- Lark Sparrow** - 1 on April 11 in Hic (MB).
- Vesper Sparrow** - 2 on April 21 at Cre (DO).
- Savannah Sparrow** - 7 on April 25 in Oldham County (DO).
- Grasshopper Sparrow** - 2 on April 14 in Log (MB); 1 on May 2 in Oldham County (DO).
- Henslow's Sparrow** - 2-3 on May 16 at PWMA (MB).
- Fox Sparrow** - 1 on March 7 at SWMA (DO); 1 on March 7 at SC (JP); 2 to 3 present during March at Mad feeder (JWH).
- Swamp Sparrow** - 1 on March 10 and on April 26 at Sil (FR).

White-throated Sparrow - Last seen on May 2 at SC (JP); last seen on May 10 in Mad (JWH).

White-crowned Sparrow - 15 on March 7 at SWMA (DO); 1 on May 6 in Mad (JWH).

Dark-eyed Junco - Still present in large numbers on April 6 at SC (JP); last seen on April 18 in Hop (JWH).

Rose-breasted Grosbeak - 1 on April 18 at SC (MH); present in Mad from April 29 to May 6 (JWH); 1 on April 28 in Gray (JP).

Blue Grosbeak - 1 male, 11 observations during May in Hart (MS).

Bobolink - 2 on May 3 in Bourbon County (FR).

Rusty Blackbird - Several observations on March 20 at SWMA (BY).

Orchard Oriole - 2 on April 20 at SC (JP); 1 in Hop on April 28 (JWH); 2 on May 8 in Jef (DO).

Baltimore Oriole - 1 on April 24-25 at SC (JP); 4 on April 25 in Jef (DO); first seen in Hop on April 26 (JWH).

An important observation of an immature male Rose-breasted Grosbeak on December 31, 1998 and January 3, 1999 by Joyce Porter at a Short Creek, Grayson County feeder was omitted in the Winter 1998-1999 report.

Contributors - Fred Busroe (FB), Mark Bennett (MB), Hap Chambers (Hap), David Chaffin (DC), Dona Coates (C), Bonnie Dever (BD), Robert Dever (RD), David Dourson (DD), Lester Doyle (LD), Neil Ekland (NE), Virginia Ekland (VE), Darrell W. Hancock (DH), James W. Hancock (JWH), Mary Harrel (MH), KOS = Kentucky Ornithological Society field trip; Lee McNeely (LMc), Lynda McNeely (LyM), Mike Miller (MM), Carl Mowery (CM), Kathy Mowery (KM), Darrin O'Brien (DO), Brainard Palmer-Ball (BPB), Clell Peterson (CP), Joyce Porter (JP), Frank Renfrow (FR), David Roemer (DR), Mitchell Sturgeon (MS), Marilee Thompson (MT), Wendell Thompson (WT), Ben Yandell (BY).

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**SEVENTH REPORT OF
THE KENTUCKY BIRD RECORDS COMMITTEE**

Lee K. McNeely, Secretary

This report is the seventh from the Kentucky Bird Records Committee (hereafter KBRC), and covers actions completed during the calendar year 1998 and through June 1999. Members serving on the committee during this period were Blaine Ferrell, Wayne Mason, Lee McNeely, Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr., and Anne Stamm. The stated purpose of the KBRC is to determine the validity of records of rare birds within Kentucky, maintain the documentation for these records, and to publish a summary of the committee's deliberations.

During this period there were two rounds of circulation through the KBRC consisting of 25 individual records. Twenty-one of these were finalized, while four remain unresolved at this point.

Accepted records:

Pelecanus occidentalis. BROWN PELICAN. [#98-16] November 20, 1998, Kentucky Lake above Kentucky Dam, Marshall County (DR) [videotaped, first Kentucky record].

Plegadis falcinellus. GLOSSY IBIS. [#98-9] May 17, 1998, McElroy Lake, Warren County (MB, LD, DE, JE) [videotaped, first Kentucky record of *Plegadis* ibis accepted as to species].

Eudocimus albus WHITE IBIS. [#98-8] July 12, 1998, McElroy Lake, Warren County (DR).

Elanus leucurus. WHITE-TAILED KITE. [#99-2] May 5, 1991, Hickman County (BPB, DP) [photographed, first Kentucky record].

Aquila chrysaetos. GOLDEN EAGLE. [#97-16] November 2, 1997, Meldahl Dam, Bracken County (DG)

Aquila chrysaetos. GOLDEN EAGLE. [#98-2] March 1, 1998, Casey County (JK)

Coturnicops noveboracensis. YELLOW RAIL. [#98-15] October 28, 1998, Ohio County, (DR)

Numenius phaeopus. WHIMBREL. [#98-6] May 19, 1998, McElroy Lake, Warren County, (DR), [17 birds videotaped].

Limosa fedoa MARBLED GODWIT. [#98-4] April 22, 1998, Minor Clark Fish Hatchery, Rowan County, (FL, LK, BPB), [5 birds photographed]

Phalaropus lobatus. RED-NECKED PHALAROPE. [#98-5] May 6, 1998, McElroy Lake, Warren County (DR)

- Phalaropus fulicaria*. RED PHALAROPE. [#98-12] October 18, 1998, Jonathan Creek, Marshall County (DR) [videotaped]
- Stercorarius pomarinus*. POMARINE JAEGER. [#99-1] February 6, 1999, Barkley Dam, Lyon County (PB, JB, HC) [second Kentucky record]
- Larus minutus*. LITTLE GULL. [#98-7] June 9-17, 1998, McElroy Lake, Warren County (DR, BPB) [photographed, first Kentucky record]
- Larus glaucoides*. ICELAND CGULL. [#98-15] November 2, 1997, Meldahl Dam, Bracken County (DG)
- Archilochus alexandri*. BLACK-CHINNED HUMMINGBIRD. [#99-5] December 12-16, 1998, Reidland, McCracken County (CS, PM) [photographed and banded, first Kentucky record].
- Selasphorus rufus*. RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD [#99-3] November 23-December 30, 1998, Bardwell, Carlisle County (CS, PM) [photographed and banded]
- Selasphorus rufus*. RUFIOUS HUMMINGBIRD. [#99-4] December 18, 1998 January 4, 1999, Lexington, Fayette County (CS, PM) [photographed and banded]
- Spizella pallida*. CLAY-COLORED SPARROW. [#98-10] May 11, 1998, Louisville, Jefferson County (DO)
- Ammodramus nelsoni*. NELSON'S SHARP-TAILED SPARROW. [#97-14] October 8, 1997, McElroy Lake, Warren County (DR)
- Calcarius pictus*. SMITH'S LONGSPUR. [#98-1] March 11-14, 1998, Open Pond, Fulton County (DR) [photographed and videotaped, first Kentucky record].

Observers: Jane Bell (JB), Pat Bell (PB), Mark Bennett (MB), Fred Busroe (FB), Hap Chambers (HC), Lester Doyle (LD), Diane Elmore (DE), Jackie Elmore (JE), Darlena Graham (DG), J.W. Kemper (JK), Lewis Kornman (LK), Portia Macmillan (PM), Brainard Palmer-Ball, Jr. (BPB), Donald Parker (DP), David Roemer (DR), and Christopher Sloan (CS).

Rejected records:

Plegadis chihi. WHITE-FACED IBIS. [#97-6] September 6, 1996,
Peabody Homestead Mine WMA, Ohio County.

The current official Kentucky list now stands at 359 species (12 of which are by sight only), with Brown Pelican, White-tailed Kite, Little Gull, Black-chinned Hummingbird, and Smith's Longspur added since the last report. All records of birds on the mandatory review list should be sent to the secretary of the KBRC, Lee McNeely, P.O. Box 463, Burlington, KY 41005.

FIELD NOTES

Common Ravens Breeding in Knott County

Mengel (1965) described the status of the Common Raven (*Corvus corax*) in Kentucky as imperfectly known but probably extinct. Although, it was probably widespread before the start of the 20th century throughout the Cumberland Plateau (Mengel 1965). A population may have persisted in the remote parts of Powell, Wolfe, Laurel, Pulaski, Wayne, and McCreary counties until as recently as 1935 (Mengel 1949). The first modern account of Common Ravens nesting in Kentucky was in April 1984 when a nest was found at Bad Branch, Letcher County (Fowler *et al.* 1985). Stamm (1989) reported another nest at Bad Branch in 1989. While Common Ravens were observed in Knott County on two occasions in 1989, no evidence of breeding was observed (Palmer-Ball 1996).

On March 14, 1998 a pair of Common Ravens was observed at the Cypress Amax Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Knott County, Kentucky. One of the birds was carrying nesting materials toward a series of highwalls associated with an active mountain top removal project. Approximately three weeks after this observation the highwalls were destroyed by continued mining and reclamation. Two adults were observed again in this area on May 22 and 23, 1998, but no other birds were seen.

On March 23, 1999, a pair of Common Ravens was observed flying together at the Cypress Amax WMA. On the morning of May 13, 1999, a pair of adults was seen in the same location feeding two begging fledglings along a strip mine highwall that was approximately 50 m high. Both the adults and fledglings vocalized and the young exhibited begging behavior. One adult carried a large unidentified food item in its bill which it delivered to one of the fledglings. After approximately 10 minutes, both adults flew away leaving the fledglings perched on the highwall. On May 26, 1998, two adults and two fledglings were observed in a freshly reclaimed grassy field 4 km to the west of the previously mentioned highwall. Based on the temporal and spatial proximity of the above sightings we believe that this was a single family unit. The Common Raven in Kentucky is observed most frequently in the higher elevations of Big Black and Pine mountains, as well as the Cumberland Gap National Historic Park (Monroe 1994). Our observation in Knott County is only the third confirmed account of breeding Common Ravens in Kentucky since it was extirpated during the

early 1900's. Further, it represents a northwestward breeding expansion of 48 km.

Reclaimed strip mines have been responsible for the eastward range expansion of several grassland songbirds into eastern Kentucky, including the Dickcissel (*Spiza americana*) (Jeff Larkin, unpub. data), Horned Lark (*Eremophila alpestris*), and Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) (Palmer-Ball 1996). Additionally, Whitmore and Hall (1978) attributed the increase in abundance of the Grasshopper Sparrow, Horned Lark, Savanna Sparrow (*Passerculus sandwichensis*), Vesper Sparrow (*Poocetes gramineus*), and Eastern Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) in West Virginia to an increase in suitable habitat created by reclaimed surface mines. Unreclaimed highwalls may be key landscape features that facilitate home range establishment of ravens dispersing from occupied range to the north and east. Further, the new landscapes with artificial cliff-lines may serve as a linkage between occupied range and extirpated range such as the Red River Gorge and the knob region of Kentucky. Palmer-Ball (1996) suggested that the natural cliffs and extensive forest of the western Cumberland Plateau could support the Common Raven. It is ironic that Bent (1946, cited by Mengel 1949) suggested that frequent human disturbance and blasting will cause ravens to abandon a locality. Blasting and intense use of machinery created the landscape features that apparently attracted ravens to the strip mine site in Knott County. Further surveys should be conducted to determine the importance of artificial cliff-lines to a potentially westward-expanding Common Raven population in Kentucky.

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The Blue-headed Vireo at the Red River Gorge: A Successful Fledging and Other Records

On May 12, 1999 I observed a very young Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*), not yet able to fly, perched about five feet up on the branch of a small eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*). My attention was called to the fledgling by the parents who had been vociferously protesting my presence as I was walking along the trail. After locating the bird, I took a number of photographs at close range as the parents came in and out to feed despite my being only a few yards away.

While the parents were away finding insects, the young bird would tuck its head down into its breast feathers, appearing for all the world like a fluffy cotton ball stuck to the branch. As the parents approached with food it would come to life, gaping its mouth, quivering its wings and cheeping loudly until fed.

This fledgling was along the Rock Bridge Loop, Wolfe County, Kentucky, about 15 feet from the trails. I had found a nest of this species along this same section of the loop on May 28, 1998. A female Blue-headed Vireo was sitting on this nest, about 20 feet up in a hemlock at the end of a small branch next to the trail. The male was seen feeding the female in between periods of singing very close to the nest.

On May 21, 1997, I found a female Blue-headed Vireo on a nest along the Double Arch Trail in Powell County, Kentucky. This nest was at eye level in a rhododendron (*Rhododendron maximum*) and the male was singing nearby. Also in 1997 I had a very early record of a singing male along Swift Camp Creek Trail, Wolfe County, Kentucky, on March 22.

During an extensive survey of much of the Red River Gorge area during the last week of May 1999, I found this species to be well distributed in areas of suitable habitat in Wolfe, Menifee and Powell counties. --FRANK RENFROW, 611 South O'Fallon Ave, Bellevue, KY 41073

An Active Nest of the Red-breasted Nuthatch at the Red River Gorge

On May 5, 1999, I observed a pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches (*Sitta canadensis*) at a nest hole in a half dead red maple (*Acer rubrum*) located at the Rock Bridge area of the Red River Gorge in Wolfe County, Kentucky. This hole was on the main trunk about 40 feet up, just a foot below the broken-off top of the tree. The nest hole was about one inch in diameter with a similar hole, not as deep, a few inches above it.

The pair had been engaged in incessant calling for several hours, a plaintive whining "yna, yna, yna" with both the male and female taking turns at calling from a twig adjacent to the hole. Much wing flicking and bowing accompanied the calling.

Upon my return early the next morning I found the female engaged in this same calling and wing flicking display. The female began to swipe its bill around the lip of the nest hole, when the male flew out of the hole. For the next three hours I watched as the female went in and out of the hole briefly about ten times and the male entered four times staying inside for up to five minutes at a time. The calling and wing flicking continued off and on. Both birds fed in the upper branches of the large white pines (*Pinus strobus*) nearby, gleaning small insects from the needle clusters and under the loose bark of the dead limbs directly below. They also fed in the upper branches of nearby tulip trees (*Liriodendron tulipifera*) and eastern sycamores (*Platanus occidentalis*). They appeared to be in the early stages of nesting at this point, in a courtship phase just prior to incubation.

I returned on May 11 and found the female to be spending much of the time sitting inside the hole as the male came at 20 minute intervals to feed the female. At this point I was joined by Brainard Palmer Ball, Jr. and Dan Dourson. Brainard observed a few droplets of resin at the edges of the nest hole.

The next morning the female was looking out of the nest hole, the male came to the hole and the female departed. At this point the resin was becoming more obvious at the lip of the hole. Activity at the nest continued with the female in the hole for prolonged periods throughout the morning hours. Several times during these observations I heard a curious call, very soft and continuous, somewhat intermediate between the soft tremolo of an Eastern Screech-Owl (*Otus asio*) and the call of the American Toad (*Bufo*

americanus). I suspected that it might be coming from the nuthatches. This notion was confirmed when I returned on May 25 with my wife Veronica. Veronica first observed the male sitting on a white pine twig near the nest tree, while engaged in "singing" this strange song of 30-40 seconds duration, several times. We wondered if this might actually be the true territorial song of the male, completely unlike typical calls of this species.

During my observations on May 25 and 27 it appeared that the female was still incubating, although it is very possible that there may have been young in the nest. The resin was now coating the bottom of the nest hole lip. I was able to obtain photographs of the male at the nest hole during this trip.

The male was also seen at a small hole in a dead limb of a nearby white pine. Pine resin was exuding from the base of that limb, a possible source of the nest hole resin.

I was unable to return to Rock Bridge until the June 9. I was disappointed to find that the nest hole had been completely dug out to over a two-inch diameter. The musky odor of a mammalian carnivore was evident at the base of the tree and it is very likely that this nest was destroyed by a predator, although it is possible that the young had fledged earlier considering the 13 day lapse in my observations. I did find a male Red-breasted Nuthatch on June 9 and 10 near the Rock Bridge loop trail head.

Despite the outcome of this nesting, there has been evidence of successful fledgings at Rock Bridge for the previous three years. A population of an estimated three to four pairs seems to be established in the deep, sheltered coves with extensive stands of mature white pine in close proximity to Rock Bridge. I have been unable to find any other areas at the Red River Gorge with this species, and indeed this seems to be the only area where the white pines dominate almost from the stream bed all the way up to the ridge tops. White pines are particularly important to the Red-breasted Nuthatch as a source of resin to coat the nest hole.

It is a matter of speculation as to whether this population is of recent origin or not. It is of interest to note that William Roscoe Thomas, in his book *Life Among the Hills and Mountains of Kentucky* (1926), mentions "a vast forest of the finest white pine" in his account of Wolfe County. I have found another nesting population of this species at Hocking Hills State Park in Ohio. This is a northern outlier of the Cliff Section of the Cumberland (Allegheny) Plateau (E. Lucy Braun, *Deciduous Forests of Eastern North*

America, 1950), about 120 miles northeast of The Red River Gorge. These unique areas, both well known for their scenic beauty, may harbor the only two nesting populations of Red-breasted Nuthatches existing within the unglaciated section of the Cumberland (Allegheny) Plateau. -- FRANK RENFROW, 611 South O'Fallon Ave., Bellevue, KY 41073.

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 of Kentucky should contact the K.O.S. Burt L. Monroe, Jr. Avian Research Committee c/o Blaine Ferrell, Department of Biology, Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, Kentucky, Bowling Green, Kentucky 42101 (email: blaine.ferrell@wku.edu) for a set of guidelines and an application form.

K.O.S. Fall Meeting

The Fall meeting of the Kentucky Ornithological Society will be September 24 and 25 at Lake Cumberland State Park. Please make plans to attend. If you would like to make a presentation during the Friday evening meeting, contact Marilee Thompson, 2443 Old Kentucky 133, Owensboro, Kentucky 42303.

K.O.S. Web Page

Visit the K.O.S. web page prepared by webmaster, Gary Ritchison at <http://www.biology.eku/kos.htm>. It is a great way to keep up with what is happening with K.O.S. and birding around the state, as well as links to

other birding web pages.

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.